Saturday Special / A3-3

Doña Sisang, Mila del Sol: 2 women who could have changed RP cinema

Business / B1

Foreign exchange reserves hit 11-month high of $16.7B

World / A10

Tony Blair wins historic 3rd straight term as British PM

News / A2

Boracay suspect flees to Germany

Super / C3

Boy George live at NBC Tent tonight starting at 10

Australian PM apologizes for deportation of Pinay

SYDNEY—Australian Prime Minister John Howard apologized Friday to a mentally ill Australian woman who was wrongly deported to the Philippines under the conservative government's strict immigration laws, leaving a 9-year-old son in foster care.

The Philippine-born woman, identified as Vivian Alvarez, was deported in 2001 after

AUSTRALIAN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Mike Arroyo challenges critics: Your balls or mine

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Irked by allegations of corruption, a lavish lifestyle and involvement in illegal gambling against his family, First Gentleman Jose Miguel

MIKE/ A8

AYAW NAMIN NG CENTURY EGGS!

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GMA: Stop all lavish spending

Coco levy executive told to explain perks

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

A TOAST TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT. President Arroyo raises a glass of bubbly to the 70th year in the Philippines of Procter and Gamble which marks the occasion by infusing P1.5 billion more to its investment in the country. It also donated 70 houses to Gawad Kalinga. Behind is PG Philippine president/general manager Johnip Cua.

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG ordered yesterday an immediate stop to all lavish spending of public funds and called for a full accounting of how these funds were being used.

In the Senate, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the chamber to summon Coconut Industry Investment Fund president Rolando A. Golez to explain his statements about the perks and privileges he had received as CIIF head.

Talking to reporters, President Macapagal-Arroyo indicated she had had enough of big-spending by government officials and appointees.

"As to the perks or lavishness of officials involving the use of public funds, these should be immediately stopped," she said in a briefing at the Petron Bataan refinery auditorium.

"We must all set the example of honesty, discipline and frugality."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, in an interview on dwIZ radio, said: "There should be a proper accounting of those funds."

Malacañang's demand for curbs on lavish lifestyles may have been prompted by concerns that alleged high living among government officials might undermine the credibility of her fiscal reform measures, such as raising taxes and cutting down on expenses.

A recent survey showed that most Filipinos were willing to accept a proposed higher value-added tax rate pending in Congress as long as the government was serious in curbing corruption and cutting down on wasteful spending.

Golez, who is also the chief executive officer of CIIF, had said on radio that it was true he received a new sport utility vehicle on assuming office and that he had spent company funds to play golf and travel abroad with his wife.

"It's there, it's part of my compensation package," Golez had said.

The CIIF is expected to incur P100 million in losses this year from P70 million last year.

Outraged by Golez's statements, militant groups demanded his resignation from CIIF and the abolition of the sequestered company. ***(See related story on Page A6.)***

"If the reports are true, Mr. Golez has a lot of explaining to do," Pimentel said. "Coco levy funds are considered public funds and therefore, these could not be disbursed by somebody like Mr. Golez."

GMA: STOP/ A6

MAKATI CELEBRATES 335TH BIRTHDAY
Garbed in costumes in the colors of the rainbow, merrymakers parade down Ayala Avenue as part of the city's foundation day festivities on Friday. REM ZAMORA

Defensor lashes back at Corpus

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday angrily hit out at retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus for alleging that he was the proponent of an allegedly overpriced contract for the engine replacement program of the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC).

If the contract for the project was indeed overpriced as has been alleged, then Corpus should go to jail for it, Defensor said in a phone interview from Burma.

Defensor claimed it was Corpus, and not he, who had approved in February the memorandum of agreement with the A.T. Intergrouppe and its Italian partner Iveco for the supply of the replacement engines.

Officials close to Corpus told the INQUIRER the other day that Corpus had resigned as alternate ex-officio chair of the NRDC because he was unhappy with the deal with ATI-Iveco that was allegedly approved by the NRDC board under Defensor.

Corpus, who resigned on April 27 just four months after his appointment as "principal overseer" of all reforestation programs nationwide, had found the contract for the engines "overpriced four times," according to the officials close to him.

The NRDC, the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is the agency in charge of implementing the engine replacement program. The project is aimed at helping jeepney operators replace their aging diesel fleet to comply with the Clean Air Act.

ATI-Iveco is proposing to sell reconditioned engines to the thousands of public jeepneys and buses for $2,000 apiece. The price is four times the market rate of $500, Corpus is said to have claimed.

Malacañang has declined to be dragged into the controversy involving Defensor and Corpus.

"These are details that only Gen. Corpus can explain. I think it is better to interview Gen. Cor

DEFENSOR/ A8

Slain newsman's kin want 2 top cops out of probe

By Ryan D. Rosauro and Hernan P. dela Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIPOLOG CITY—The family of slain radio commentator Klein Cantoneros is seeking the exclusion of two ranking police officials from the investigation of the murder.

Lawyer James Verduguez said the family members were calling on Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao to take Supt. Jeufel Adriatico, Zamboanga del Norte police director and Supt. Tomas Hizon, Dipolog City police chief, out of the newly formed Cantoneros Special Task Force.

Verduguez said the family was "not comfortable" with the idea that the two officials were leading the task force assigned to fast-track the resolution of the murder.

He said the family wanted an independent fact-finding team.

Adriatico is the husband of the younger sister of Gov. Rolando Yebes, and Hizon is an alleged close ally of Mayor Roberto Uy.

Yebes and Uy were both under heavy criticism from Cantoneros weeks before unidentified men riddled him with bullets early last Wednesday.

Cantoneros, 34, was also said to have played a key role in drumming up public support for recall proceedings against Yebes. The movement

SLAIN/ A22

GMA order illegal, says Señeres

By Jerome Aning

HE'S staying put.

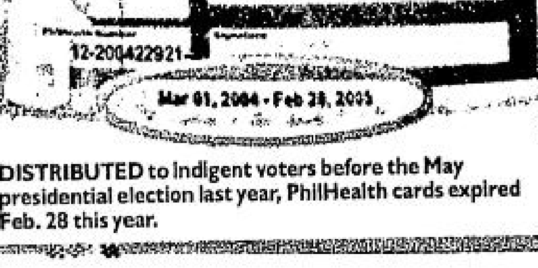
National Labor Relations Commission chair Roy Señeres said yesterday he would stay in his post although President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered that he turn over the administrative supervision of the body to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

According to Señeres, the President's order was illegal.

As a career officer, he was entitled to serve as NLRC chair until he retired or removed for just cause, Señeres said.

"Rumor is not just cause for dismissal," he said, reacting to alleged accusations by the President herself that he was engaged

GMA ORDER/ A22



CEBU DAILY NEWS

DISTRIBUTED to indigent voters before the May presidential election last year, PhilHealth cards expired Feb. 28 this year.

Gloria health cards now expired

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Attention, holders of the controversial health cards distributed last year to indigent persons during President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign for a fresh term.

The cards that carried Ms Arroyo's photo have expired and holders have until July to re-enroll at the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) under the indigent members category, according to Francisco Duque III, president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

Duque made the announcement at a press conference held Thursday afternoon at the Leyte Park Resort, where he also disclosed that he had been "offered" the health portfolio now held by Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

"And I will not decline the offer," Duque said, but added that he did not want to "preempt" the President's announcement.

The distribution of the health cards drew loud protest not only from Ms Arroyo's political opponents but also activist groups. They accused her of using government funds and facilities for her election campaign.

Duque said the NHIP had only until July to complete the re-enrollment of the four million indigents nationwide—including more than 300,000 in the Eastern Visayas—who had received the health cards.

At least P1.5 billion is needed to cover the premiums of those enrolled in the program, Duque said.

He said his office had requested assistance from various groups such as

GLORIA/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme North Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Eastern Mindanao.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: ERIKA SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/05/06/05

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Boracay suspect flees to Germany

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The German national earlier tagged as the prime suspect in the gruesome killings in the popular island-resort of Boracay has slipped out of the country and is now in Germany.

Uwe Fritz Berndt, Second Secretary of the German Embassy, said that Uwe Friesl was seen in the latter's hometown in Bavaria two months ago. (See related story on Page 20)

This was confirmed by Senior Supt. Jose Jorge Corpuz, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group director in Western Visayas, who said that an official of the German embassy relayed the information to CIDG operatives in Manila after Friesl was sighted by the German police.

The Aklan Provincial Prosecutor's Office had charged Friesl and three unidentified suspects with four counts of murder for the May 2004 killing of his fellow German Anton Forstenhausler, Swiss-born vineyard owner and art collector Manfred Schoeni, Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite and Forstenhausler's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento.

The victims were found dead on May 3, 2004 in separate rooms at Dolce Vita, Forstenhausler's three-story mansion at the top of Mt. Luho in Balabag village in Boracay. The victims bore multiple stab wounds.

Corpuz said Friesl escaped through the country's "backdoor" referring to various illegal entry and exit points in the south. He said Friesl was last seen in Puerto Galera in Mindoro two months ago.

"Our operatives followed him there after we received information that he was seen in the area but he could have already left when our team arrived," Corpuz told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

CIDG operatives have launched a nationwide hunt for Friesl after the Kalibo Regional Trial Court issued a warrant for his arrest in January.

A hold departure order against Friesl was also issued by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation.

Police lost track of Friesl shortly before the warrant was issued. He has also not contacted his lawyer Jaime Ma. Flores II since February.

The official, whom Corpuz asked not to be named, has asked the CIDG for copies of the records of the case "for study."

But Corpuz said the case would probably be archived because the accused is no longer in the country. There is no extradition treaty between the Philippines and Germany.

Forstenhausler's widow, Josephine was shocked after she was notified of Friesl's escape.

"He was the only accused identified by the police and now he is gone," Josephine said in a telephone interview. "I am extremely frustrated. How can this happen when he was on the hold order list and the police was after him?"

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Court tells Pepsi to pay two '349' promo winners

By Armand N. Nocum

IN A DECISION that could open the floodgates to thousands of other claimants, the Court of Appeals has ordered Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc. (PPCPI) to pay P6.2 million to two claimants in the "349" Pepsi "Number Fever" promo which ended in a fiasco in 1992.

In its ruling, the CA's 16th Division upheld a February 2004 CA ruling in favor of complainants Pepe Pagdanganan and Pepito Lumahan, and junked the motion for reconsideration filed by Pepsi.

The three-page decision was penned by Associate Justice Amelita Tolentino.

"We have once more taken a closer look and carefully reviewed the aforementioned decision. However, taking into consideration the arguments poised by (Pepsi) vis-a-vis the comment/ opposition of the (complainants), we find and so hold that there exists no sufficient reason for us to reverse and set aside our February 13, 2004" ruling, the CA said in its April 13 decision released to reporters yesterday.

The CA, however, denied the motion for reconsideration filed by the claimants asking Pepsi to pay them P500,000 in moral damages and P500,000 in exemplary damages.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Vic del Fierro Jr., president of Coalition for Consumer Protection & Welfare Inc. (CCPWI), said the decision would pave the way for the court victory of other claimants.

"This is a precedent-setting case that will favorably affect all claimants. This will open the floodgates for all claimants," said Del Fierro, who helped document the case of Pagdanganan and Lumahan.

"This is a major victory for the claimants," said Del Fierro, whose claim—as well as that of the others—remains pending with the CA.

In 1994, Del Fierro organized Coalition 349 which filed a $400-million class suit against Pepsi-Cola in the US. The coalition claimed a membership of 20,000.

Last year, the CA ordered Pepsi to pay Pagdanganan P5 million, and Lumahan, P1.2 million.

The CA decision, penned by then Associate Justice Eloy R. Bello Jr., reversed the ruling of the Pasig Regional Trial Court, which junked Lumahan and Pagdanganan's claims.

"If there is anyone to blame for the fiasco created by the promotion, no one else but defendants-appellants (PepsiCo Inc. and Pepsi Products Philippines Inc.) are responsible for it. It behooves upon them to maintain the integrity of the promo by avoiding any possible errors that would prejudice consumers," the court said then.

"With the promo mechanics as the guide, it is undisputable that plaintiffs-appellants are very well entitled to the cash prizes indicated on their crowns," it added.

The case started in 1992 when Pepsi announced that holders of "349" crowns were the winners in its daily "Number Fever" promo for May 25, 1992. Pepsi had distributed more than 800,000 caps with the number 349.

But Pepsi refused to recognize the winning "349" caps, saying it would only award the prize to holders of Pepsi bottle caps containing a pre-determined winning security code. It said there were 500,000 non-winning 349 crowns.

But CA pointed out that the security code requirement was not included in the Pepsi promo mechanics and deviated from the rules approved" by the Department of Trade and Industry.

"It is highly inequitable for Pepsi to impose an additional requirement in order to win as a way to evade the unusually large number of 349 winners-claimants," the court said.

The court said that while the "mistake" was "attributable" to DG Consultores, Pepsi's consultants, the "responsibility for the promotion still falls" with the giant softdrinks company. DG Consultores is a Mexican consultant company retained by PepsiCo US.

Australia warns citizens vs RP travel: Terror attack eminent

By Nikko Dizon

AUSTRALIA yesterday warned of the risk of an imminent terrorist attack in the Philippines and urged its citizens to avoid tourist areas.

"We continue to receive reports that terrorists in the region are planning attacks. Recent reports suggest that terrorists may be in the final stages of planning an attack. Attacks could occur at any time, anywhere in the Philippines," said the advisory, posted on the Australian Embassy's website yesterday afternoon.

The advisory urged Australians planning to travel to the Philippines to carefully consider the new information.

There was no immediate official reaction from the Philippine government.

While the advisory cited the Philippine government's commitment to improve security in the country and fighting terrorism, and the authorities' arrests of suspected terrorists, it still emphasized that "risk of further terrorist attacks and kidnapping remains," particularly in Mindanao.

"Australians in Mindanao who are concerned for their safety should consider departing," the advisory said.

Manila, according to the advisory, has experienced "a series of bombing campaigns, shootings and grenade attacks."

"Further explosions are possible anywhere in the country as demonstrated by terrorist bombings in Mindanao and Manila in February 2005 that resulted in a number of deaths," the advisory said.

Seven people were killed and more than a hundred were injured in bomb explosions in the cities of Makati, Davao and Cagayan de Oro on Valentine's Day.

With AFP report

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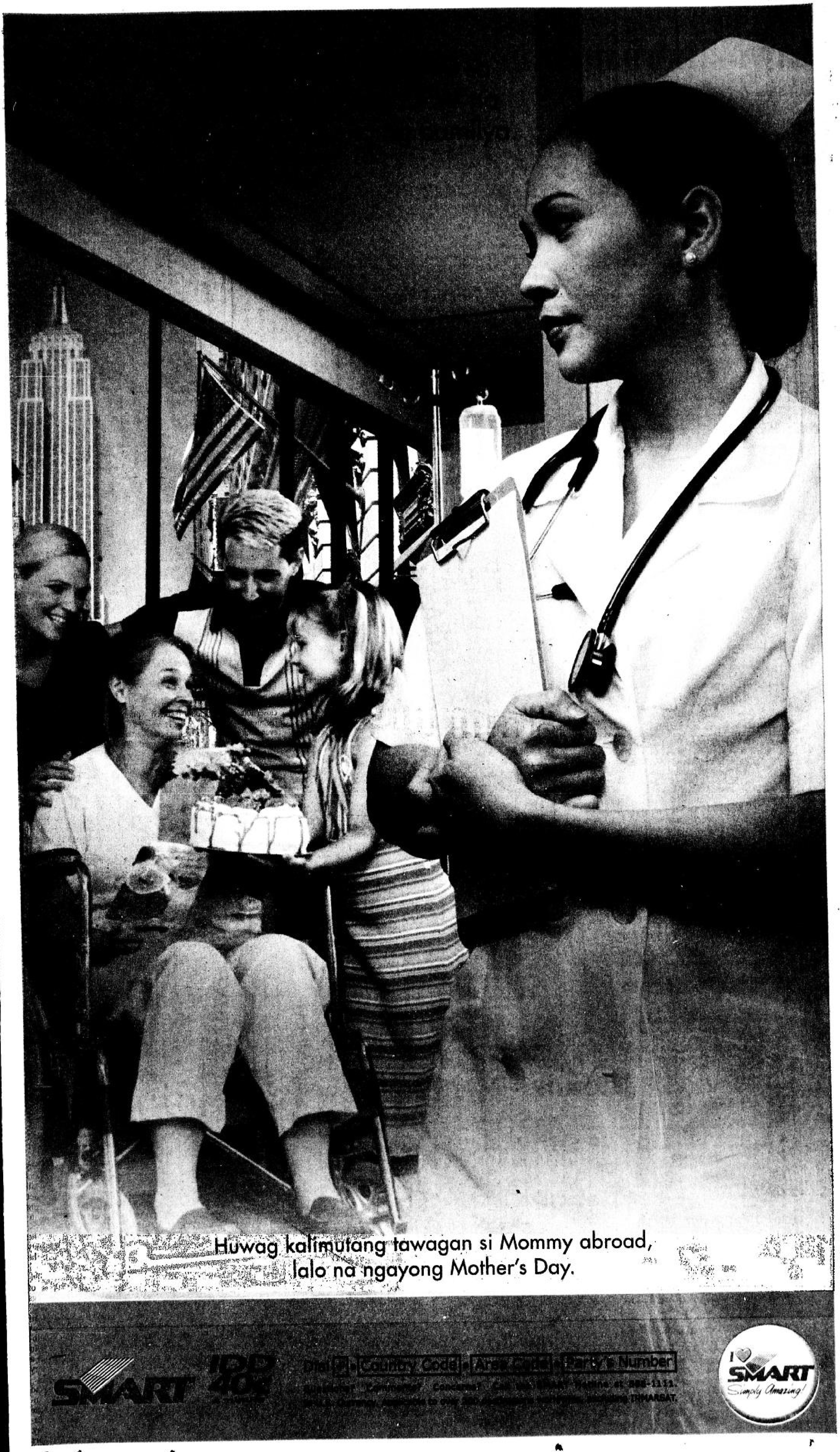
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Lawmakers moving toward compromise on VAT

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER WEEKS of delay, legislators are moving towards a compromise on the value-added tax that would maintain the VAT rate at 10 percent but give President Macapagal-Arroyo the authority to raise the rate under certain conditions.

Sen. Ralph Recto and Rep. Jesli Lapus, who head the Senate and House panels to the bicameral conference committee, respectively, met on Thursday to "craft the language" of a bicameral report, which proposes to keep the VAT rate but grant Ms Arroyo discretionary powers to raise it.

"It's a step forward. The two panels coming together in full force without any conditions usually takes longer," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of the panel, said in an interview. "Differences are threshed out in caucuses."

Sen. Edgardo Angara said that if both the Senate and House panels reached a compromise on the proposal, the passage of the VAT bill at the bicameral conference would be a cinch.

"Once we harmonize our positions there, the rest will be a matter of details. Everything else follows because that's the most contentious issue," he said in a phone interview.

The two houses of Congress have locked horns since March over a plan to boost revenues from VAT, which is seen as crucial to fixing the government's financial woes.

Angara, like Sen. Richard Gordon, was agreeable to the proposal on the condition that the government increase its tax collection efficiency rate from the current 70 percent to 80 percent.

"There should be an incentive to the government to perform better tax collection," he said, adding: "If that's the condition, I think a majority of the Senate panel will approve the standby authority."

But some senators are opposed to the proposal to grant Ms Arroyo authority to raise VAT which could mean a deal is some way off.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña said he would oppose granting the proposal under any circumstance.

"Nothing is acceptable to me. I want them to stop the smuggling first because we'll collect P100 billion," he told reporters, saying he would propose this at the resumption of the bicameral conference.

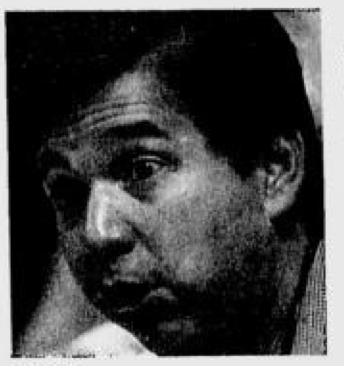
Other members of the Senate panel opposed to the proposal were Senators Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar Jr. and Jamby Madrigal.

Recto and Lapus have yet to disclose the conditions under which Congress could delegate the standby power to the President.

Osmeña said he expected fierce debates on the conditions at the bicameral conference.

Recto earlier proposed giving the President such power to break the deadlock in the bicameral conference.

LAPUS


RECTO

Senators have strongly opposed the lower house's version to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent.

As this developed, senators yesterday squelched rumors of a move to unseat Senate President Franklin Drilon for his supposed lukewarm support for the Senate version of the VAT bill, chiding congressmen for fanning the rumors.

The rumors swirled Thursday after a member of the House bicam alleged that some disgruntled senators, particularly the Wednesday group of Villar Jr., were plotting to oust Drilon.

"It's not true. I'm not aware of any such move especially if it comes from the House of Intrigues. It's just the 'lapsus' of the House of Intrigues,". Sen. Joker Arroyo said in an interview. *With report from Reuters*

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Photo Exhibit / Meet Your National Artist
4-31 May / Rustans Tower, EDSA

Exhibit of Indigenous Textiles /
Tribal Expressions
4 - 31 May / Rustans Tower, Shangrila Plaza

The Kumintang Legacy
6-8 May / Taal Batangas

Dumaguete Biennial / Terra Cotta Art Festival
13-14 May / Mariyah Gallery

Tayo na sa Antipolo Tour
7 May / Antipolo City

The Parian at Intramuros
13-15 May / Parian Gate, Intramuros, Manila

2nd GSIS Painting Competition /
Pista Pasinaya: Celebrating the Filipino
23 May / GSIS Museum

Oratory Competition /
Balagtasan sa Bulacan
25 May / Hagonoy, Bulacan

Concert / The C-Majors Concert
25 May / CCP Main Theater

The Valera Book Launch
26 May / National Museum

Concert / The Concert at Victorias City
26 May / New Victorias Cultural Center

Flag Day / The Katipunan Wall of Remembrance
28 May / Rizal Park, Manila

Closing Rites / Way to Go-Cebu!
Tiangges, exhibits, food fests
28 May / Plaza Independencia, Cebu City

Concert / Raul Sunico and UST Wind
Orchestra in Concert
30 May / Makati City

* * *

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
San Miguel Corporation
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Spin gurus tell GMA: Drop Garcia

LESS than 24 hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo accepted its offer of free public relations advice, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines went immediately to work and dished out its first advice to Malacañang.

In an interview with radio station dzMM, PRSP president Amylyn C. Sison de Quiros said Malacañang should get rid of government officials that have given the President a bad name, such as Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) general manager Winston Garcia.

The President has stood solidly behind Garcia despite mounting calls for his ouster. *Gil Cabacungan*

COMBAT PRACTICE
Members of the Traffic Management Group undergo close-quarter combat training at Camp Crame in Quezon City.
VAL HANDUMON

Actor Romy Diaz declared brain dead

By Marinel R. Cruz

CHARACTER actor Romy Diaz, who was diagnosed with tongue cancer in 2004, was declared brain dead at the National Kidney Institute on Tuesday afternoon.

His daughter-in-law said he had choked on a piece of meat.

According to Frida Diaz, the 64-year-old actor—among the late Fernando Poe Jr.'s "favorite" onscreen tormentors—is still hooked to a life support system.

Romy, last seen in the film "Bertud ng Putik" (2003),was to have been discharged from the hospital that day, Frida told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday. He had been confined since January, and was being fed through a tube at the time.

"But he still insisted on having soup once in a while," Frida said. On Tuesday, a piece of meat in the soup lodged in his throat. "The doctor took it out with a suction machine."

Except for his brain, Romy's heart and other vital organs are still functioning, according to his oncologist, Leo Marbella.

Romy's brother, character actor Paquito, also suffered a stroke in October and underwent surgery to remove a blood clot in the brain. Paquito has been confined at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa for three months now.

Fernandez dies; 72

OSCAR Cabal Fernandez died Wednesday night at the Capitol Medical Center. He was 72.

He was born in Dagupan City to parents Rep. Angel B. Fernandez and Corazon Cabal Fernandez. He became a regional trial court judge in Manila and presiding court of first instance judge in Bulacan and Ilocos Sur. He was also assistant solicitor general during the Macapagal and Marcos administrations.

He is survived by wife Nenita, children and grandchildren, brother and sisters-in-law.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. On Sunday, his body will be brought to the Knights of Columbus Chapel in Dagupan City. He will buried at the Eternal Gardens in Dagupan City on Monday after an early morning Mass at the St. John's Cathedral.

2 cellphone thieves face lethal injection for death of a salesman

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Now crime does not pay even for cellphone robbers.

A regional trial court here has sentenced to death two robbers who divested their victim of his cellphone and also killed him.

Regional Trial Court Judge Roberto Chiongson meted the death penalty on Eduardo Pandes Yanson, 21, and Vicente de la Peña Flores, 18, after they were found guilty of robbery with homicide.

They were also ordered to pay the heirs of the victim, Michael Salmorin, P807,840 as compensatory damages, P30,000 for his burial, P100,000 to his wife, Yolymar Salmorin, as moral damages, and P50,000 as death indemnity.

In his ruling, Chiongson said that the ownership of a cellular phone brings convenience and unexpected danger, pointing out that such was the fate of Salmorin who, on Jan. 29, 2004, lost his life to cellphone thieves.

Salmorin, 29, a salesman at a Bacolod mall, was sending a text message along 22nd Street near the Ama Computer School in Bacolod City at around 11 p.m. on Jan. 29, 2004 when the two suspects ganged up on him and stabbed him in the chest when he refused to give up his phone.

The phone, a Nokia 6210 valued at P12,000, was gift from wife, Yolymar, 26, an employee of the National Food Authority in Bacolod City.

Salmorin was rushed to the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital by bystanders and died shortly thereafter, but he was able to describe his assailants and the clothes they wore to his wife before he died, court records showed.

"There can be no doubt that the utterances of Michael given at the very moment that he was fighting for his life at the hospital are admissible as a dying declaration," Chiongson said.

The police earlier told the court that Yanson was a hardened criminal who had been in and out of the Bacolod City jail for various offenses. He was also previously convicted for a drug-related case.

Taruc eulogized with poems, songs

By Fe Zamora

IN POEMS and songs, they celebrated the life of Luis Taruc, the legendary peasant and guerrilla leader who loved poetry.

Friends Pablo Reyna Libiran and Luz Gonzales eulogized the former Huk Supremo for his love for the masses in an hour of impromptu poetry on Thursday night at the Funeraria Paz, where his remains lay.

Libiran extolled Taruc with a "tulang parangal," a form of traditional poetry usually offered a beauty queen during her coronation.

Libiran spoke of how Taruc's death had left his people in grief, still shackled in poverty:

"O, Ka Luis, pagmasdan mo kaming mga naiwan,
Nakagapos sa dalita sa biglaan mong paglisan.
Ang luha sa aming mata'y hindi namin mapigilan,
Pagka't mahal ka sa amin habang kami'y nabubuhay."

Taruc's childhood friend, Gonzales, rendered a political poem about the plight of the masses, a topic that the peasant leader held close to his heart.

Taruc, who led the resistance movement Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) against the Japanese occupation in World War II and later a failed communist rebellion in the 1950s, died Sunday at age 92.

"Ka Luis loved poetry. He even asked me to read his poems in my radio program," Libiran, one of the hosts of the program "Mano Po, Lolo; Mano Po Lola," told the INQUIRER.

The program, heard from 1-2 p.m. Sunday over dzME, tackles issues concerning the senior citizen.

According to Libiran, the poems written by Taruc were "profound" and delvėd mostly on issues concerning peasants, workers and the country.

"Ka Luis wrote fine Tagalog, despite his being a Kapampangan," said Libiran, who is also known as the Prince of Balagtasan (poetical joust)."

An old love song

Providing apt background to Gonzales' poem, a group of elderly women in traditional Maria Clara dresses, hummed the song, "Bayan Ko (My People)."

Taruc's friend Magdalena Camposano said the women belonged to the Philippine United Senior Citizens Association (Pusca) and the Maria Clara ni Rizal (Maclariz) organization, both of which are led by Gonzales.

Camposano, who is in her mid-70s, also sang "Mayumi," an old Tagalog love song.

The welfare of the masses was on Taruc's mind until his last days, his grand-niece Zeny Taruc-Santos told the INQUIRER.

According to Taruc-Santos, her grand-uncle summoned her to his house at the Capitol Bliss for an update on House Bill No. 6653, which seeks to amend Republic Act No. 2640, the law that created the public corporation called Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

"You know, his word is law to us," Taruc-Santos said.

She brought the documents to his house on Monday, April 25, where Taruc had a meeting with Rep. Hermilando Mandanas, the Batangas representative who was to file an amendment to the measure.

The proposed amendment was first filed by Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, but it was shelved during the 12th Congress.

Last sadness

The amendment, which Mandanas plans to revive in the 13th Congress, seeks to include the Hukbalahap among the organizations that make up the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

"My grand-uncle felt bad [that] his group was excluded when in fact, they were also war veterans," Taruc-Santos said.

Until his last breath, Taruc remained focussed on helping former guerrillas, she said.

She said his house in Capitol Bliss was "always full of visitors, mostly veterans and their families."

Taruc will be buried on Sunday, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

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Australian PM apologizes for deportation of Pinay

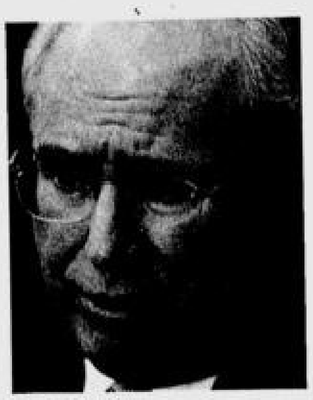
From page A1

authorities failed to realize she was listed as a missing person.

Officials are currently trying to relocate the woman.

"I am very sorry if anything unfairly has happened in relation to that and, on the face of it, that does appear to be the case," Howard said on ABC radio.

Howard said the case has been referred to an inquiry investigating another immigration scandal, in which a German-born Australian resident suffering from schizophrenia wrongly spent 10 months in jail and immigration detention.



HOWARD

Sex slave?

An official with the Philippine consulate, who spoke to the woman before she was deported, said she had said her name was Vivian Alvarez and that she had been married to an Australian man.

The Australian newspaper reported the woman told consulate officials that she had been kept as a sex slave in a Queensland flat and had escaped to New South Wales before being detained by police after being involved in a traffic accident.

"She was suffering from physical injuries and walking with a crutch. Her mind wasn't straight," the official told the newspaper.

"She claimed she was detained in the apartment ... as a white slave, and said there were lots of men coming to her, but she was able to escape.

"I don't know if she was telling the truth. She does not know how she was able to come to Australia."

Queensland state Premier Peter Beattie on Friday called for a judicial inquiry into the case.

Son in foster care

Beattie said the woman had failed to pick her son up from a Brisbane child care facility on Feb. 16, 2001, and the child was subsequently taken into foster care. The state then listed her as a missing person.

Some months later, the woman was treated at a hospital in New South Wales where staff were unable to confirm her identity.

"Hospital staff alerted the federal immigration department who interviewed her and could not find any details or records in relation to her arrival in Australia," Beattie said.

"She was going under a name of which Queensland police had no record."

Three days later, she was deported to the Philippines.

Wrongful detention

A spokesperson for acting Immigration Minister Peter McGauran said Thursday that the woman's family had requested that no further details on the case be released and that all relevant information had been passed to the ongoing inquiry.

The inquiry is already investigating some 33 cases of wrongful detention under Australia's strict immigration laws, which allow for mandatory and unlimited detention of asylum seekers. *AFP*

Militants want CIIF scrapped, its big-spending chief sacked

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ANAKPAWIS party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano and militant groups yesterday demanded the immediate dissolution of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) and the resignation of its head.

They issued their demands after CIIF chief Rolando Golez spoke on radio about the extent of perks and privileges he had received as head of the company.

Mariano is the principal author of House Bill No. 3728, which seeks to create a "Genuine Small Coconut Farmers' Trust Fund," and HB 742 calling for an investigation into the P8.4-billion coco levy funds to be used for the Agusan Reserve Development Project.

"More than three decades since the establishment of the CIIF, it has not served the interests of small coconut farmers," Mariano said, adding that "the notoriety of the CIIF [as] ... a milking cow of big landlords persists."

"Small coconut farmers have not benefited a single cent from the coco levy funds forcibly extracted from them by the Marcos regime," said the labor leader.

Concessions to Danding?

Mariano claimed that Golez was a protégé of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., and that his appointment and the appointments of other supposed Cojuangco men to the CIIF "form part of a series of secret deals with the Arroyo administration."

"The extravagance and lavishness of Golez enjoys Malacanang's blessings as part of its political and economic concessions to Danding. It appears that these CIIF people are still living in the age of autocracy and feudal rule," said Mariano.

And this had happened, he said, "while the farmers are getting more impoverished with the current dying state of the coconut industry."

Rightful owners

Mariano said it was high-time that the CIIF be abolished so that all coco levy funds and assets could be promptly returned to their rightful owners, the coconut farmers.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) renewed its call for the freezing of the coco levy funds.

Ka Willy Marbella, KMP internal deputy secretary said: "What we feared is now happening. The fund, which is the product of the sweat and blood of small coconut farmers, is again being embezzled by high living government officials. Before we know it, the funds are already gone and the real owners have not even benefited from them."

Heads must roll

The KMP asked the Supreme Court or any appropriate government body to freeze the coco levy funds and all the assets acquired using those funds.

It also asked for the resignation of Golez.

"Heads should roll," Carl Anthony Ala, KMP public information officer, said in a statement.

The militant fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) called for the abolition of all perks and privileges enjoyed by CIIF officials.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said in a statement that alleged misuse of coco levy funds "was tantamount to grand robbery in broad daylight."

Public outrage

He added: "CIIF officials style of living ... deserves wholesale condemnation and public outrage. This is a medieval type story of landlord aristocracy revived in this age of modern day slavery."

"Who is Golez? Why he is behaving like a reincarnated King of the Divine Right Society? What is his connection to the Macapagal-Arroyo Empire in Malacañang?" Corpuz asked.

The coalition Kapatiran at Alyansang Alay sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan (Kaakbay-Quezon) called for the immediate investigation into the use of the coco levy money.

Transparent probe

"The government should immediately conduct investigation on all transactions entered into by the CIIF and its officials. For the sake of the millions of small coconut farmers, the probe should be transparent enough so [people would not] lose their faith [in] other appointed stewards of the coco levy fund," Jay Lim, Kaakbay-Quezon spokesperson, said in a statement.

GMA: Stop all lavish spending

From page A1

"I would squeeze him into the hearings," he added in an interview with reporters.

The Senate committee on agriculture and food, chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, has held two hearings on the utilization and management of coco levy funds, as well as the controversial hybrid coconut plantation project in Agusan del Sur.

Need for gov't supervision

Pimentel warned that the misuse of coco levy assets by designated fund custodians in the private sector would persist as long as these were not subjected to government supervision.

Allegations by Haydee Yorac that CIIF executives had been mismanaging funds owned by coconut farmers should prod Malacañang to hold the CIIF companies accountable for their actions, he said.

For a starter, the opposition senator proposed that the Commission on Audit assert its constitutional authority to examine the financial operations of CIIF companies, such as the CIIF Oil Mills Group and the United Coconut Planters Bank.

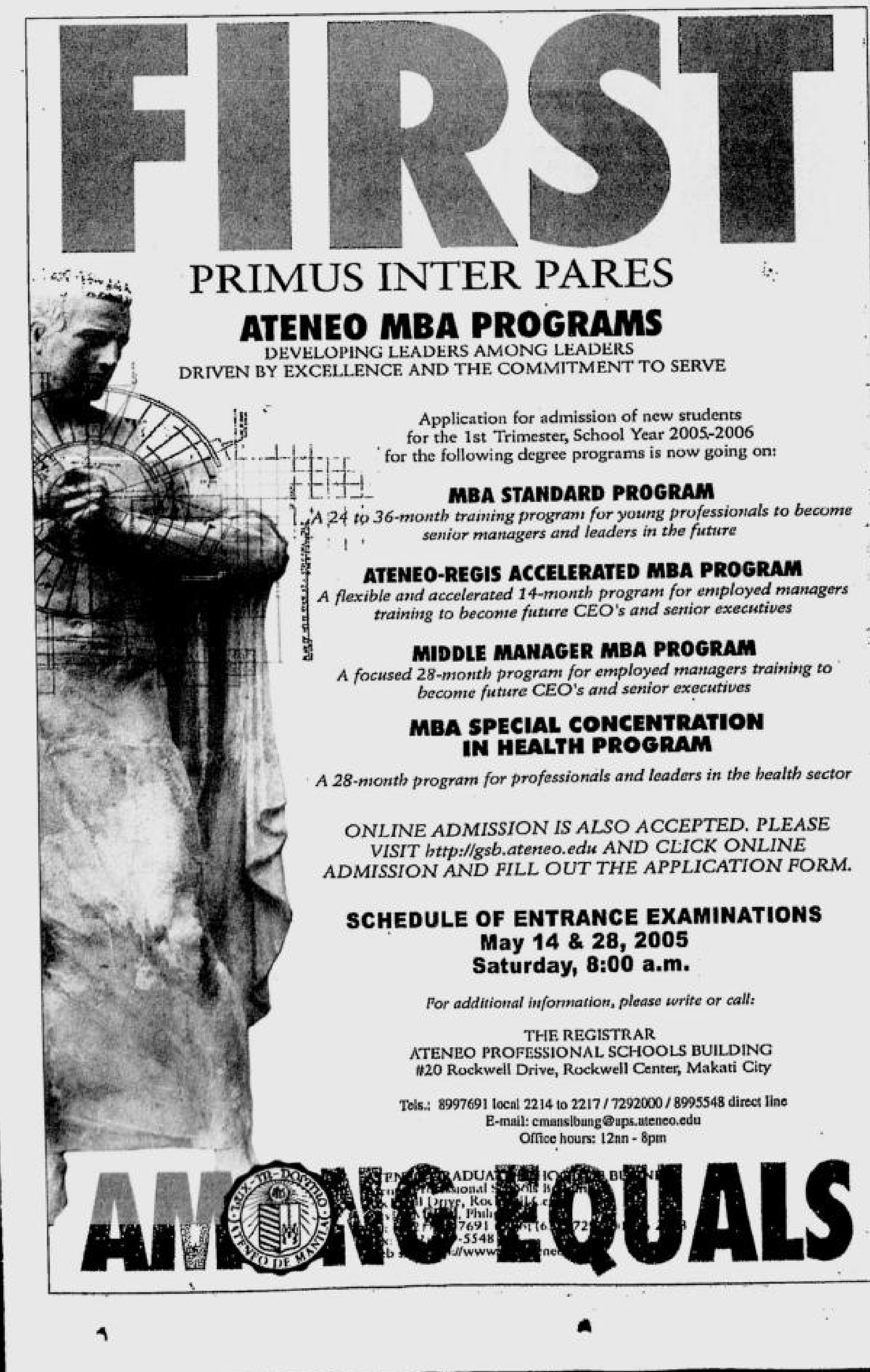
"For as long as the CIIF companies are beyond the coverage of government rules and are not subject to COA audit, I am afraid that the government will be helpless in preventing the fund misuse cited by Attorney Yorac," he said.

Created by Marcos

Yorac, who has quit as chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, had decried the use of coco levy funds by executives of CIIF companies.

The CIIF, created by a presidential decree during the Marcos regime, owns 27 percent shares in San Miguel Corp. valued at P100 billion. Annual interest earnings from these shares are remitted to the UCPB, according to the senator.

The UCPB acts as the official custodian of the CIIF, he said.



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AMONG EQUALS

HANDS-ON GMA: The President herself gave out PhilHealth cards to the poor during awarding ceremonies at the Quirino Grandstand in 2002. PDI PHOTO

Gloria health cards now expired

From page A1

the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and the League of Governors, as well as members of the House of Representatives, to ensure continued health services for the card holders.

Duque expressed optimism that his request would be heeded. He said Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin assured him at a meeting last week that the shares of the local government units in the internal revenue allotment (IRA) would be increased.

"With the increased IRA shares for our LGUs, we are positive that they will assist us in re-enrolling these indigent members," Duque said.

He said the original setup of the health program was for the national government to shoulder the cost of enrolling the 4 million indigent card holders in the first year, and for the LGUs to do their share in the next enrollment.

Son and namesake

Duque, 48, was appointed by Ms Arroyo to his present position on June 18, 2001.

He said a Malacañang official whom he did not name had told him that he would replace Dayrit.

Citing information he had received, he said Dayrit was considering a post at the World Health Organization.

"But let us not preempt the President in announcing that. Let [her] do the formal announcement," Duque said, adding that he did not know when Ms Arroyo would make the offer public.

If things turn out as Duque says, Ms Arroyo will name as the next health secretary the son and namesake of a man appointed to the same post by her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Francisco Duque Jr. served as Macapagal's health secretary from 1961 to 1963.

The Duques hail from Pangasinan.

The younger Duque, a physician by profession, was in Tacloban as part of his regular visits to PhilHealth regional offices.

He served as health undersecretary from March to June 2001, during the term of President Fidel Ramos.

As PhilHealth president and CEO, Duque holds a Cabinet rank.

Girl saves sis, wakes up with broken legs

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Twelve-year-old Michelle Balantugok was walking home with her half-sister Candy Mae Barro, 4, on Labor Day when tragedy struck.

Candy shook off her elder sister's hand and ran across Fil-Am Avenue, failing to see a speeding tricycle. But Michelle did. She sprang and pushed her half-sister to safety.

This was the last thing Michelle remembered doing when she woke up in the hospital. She was relieved when told that Candy was unharmed save for some scratches.

Michelle, however, fractured both legs. She would need a P100,000 surgery to implant stainless supports in her legs.

On Thursday, Michelle's parents decided to transfer her to a government hospital because of financial constraints.

The girl's family is poor and so is the tricycle driver that hit her. Amelia, Michelle's mother is jobless. The stepfather is also a tricycle driver and barely makes enough money for day-to-day expenses.

Michelle graduated from the Fatima Elementary School last month and was looking forward to high school in June when she had the accident. Now she's afraid that she won't be able to finish school, fulfill her dreams to deliver her family out of poverty, much less walk again.

"Would life be the same again?" she asked.

On Thursday, city councilor Lourdes Casabuena, chair of the city council's committee on education and family matters, came to see Michelle and pledged to pay for her tuition fee in high school when she enrolls this school opening.

But Casabuena said Michelle needed additional financial help so she could have her operation and make her dreams come true. *Aquies Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 7, 2005
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 18:23-28
Gospel: John 16:23-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you. So far you have not asked in my Name; ask and receive that your joy may be full.

"I taught you all this in veiled language, but the time is coming when I shall no longer speak in veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

"When that day comes, you will ask in my Name and it will not be for me to ask the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and you believe that I came from the Father. As I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Commentary

Jesus speaks in veiled language because he has not yet died and risen, yet his words are clear in the Spirit given to those as gift. The Spirit teaches us plainly about the Father. The Spirit speaks in the Scriptures, the Word of Jesus, in the community—plainly about the Father and we will be taught to pray—to pray in Jesus' name as one Body in the grace of the Spirit and all that we ask for will be given to us. The Father loves us in Jesus and in the Spirit and we must let go of Jesus—let him leave this world that limits him in his physical body—to know him and the Father and the Spirit plainly. We are so reluctant to let any knowledge or experience of God go—clinging to what we have and yet we must always let go, so that God can teach us, so that the Spirit can work in us so that we might be a part of God who is three and who is one.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (REVISED PENAL CODE: BOOK ONE)—Unlawful aggression—In incomplete self-defense, unlawful aggression must be present, it being an indispensable requisite. What is absent is either one or both of the last requisites, to wit: reasonable necessity of the means employed to prevent or repel it; and, lack of sufficient provocation on the part of the person defending himself. Just as in complete self-defense, the burden of proof is upon petitioner to prove the elements of incomplete self-defense. It follows that he should have proved before the trial court that there was unlawful aggression on the part of the victim. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Third Division, Mendoza v. People, G. R. No. 139759, January 14, 2005)

BY R.B. VERA

ETHICAL ISSUE

Masbate twins: Docs contemplate sacrifice

By Michael Lim Ubac

DOCTORS are contemplating on emergency surgical procedures to separate Masbate twins Angela and Angel Mae Garganta.

The urgency became apparent yesterday following a series of tests showing that the girls have only one heart, liver and gall bladder.

And the lone heart pumping blood into the twins has a "congenital atrioventricular septal defect," said a report by the Philippine General Hospital to the Philippine National Red Cross, which rescued the twins three days after birth on April 29.

A multi-disciplinary team of doctors told the Red Cross that an atrioventricular septal defect was a rare heart defect present at birth, thus the word congenital.

In layman's term, the twins have an improperly developed heart with only three chambers instead of four.

GARGANTA TWINS: A case needing the wisdom of Solomon JESS YUSON

"One of the twins, Angela, is on mechanical ventilator (breathing apparatus) and is suffering from nosocomial pneumonia," said Gwen Pang, Red Cross fund manager, who's keeping track of the twins' condition.

"The other one, Angel Mae, is OK," she said.

Red Cross chair Sen. Richard Gordon was informed yesterday that the doctors were now contemplating on separating the twins immediately.

Gordon said a multi-disciplinary meeting involving thoracic and plastic surgeons would be held soon to discuss an underlying ethical issue: sacrificing one twin.

"They will discuss possibilities for emergency separation," said Gordon. "But even after surgery, there's still no guarantee that the one who gets the heart will survive."

"Let's pray (that the babies will survive)," he said.

Ethically wrong

Gordon was referring to Alice D. Dreger, a Michigan State University medical historian, who had said that in cases in which one of the twins must be "sacrificed," it was "ethically wrong" to take one life so another may live.

Dreger argued that separation surgeries, which call for one of the twins to be sacrificed, were never successful, saying at least nine cases had been attempted and none had resulted in any long-term, healthy survivor.

"In all of the cases, the intentionally sacrificed twin died," she said.

The Masbate twins, joined at the waist at birth, are classified as thoracopagus, which refers to the anterior union of the upper half of the trunk. It's the most common form of conjoined twins which always involves sharing the heart.

Conjoined twins occur (once in every 200,000 live births) when the developing embryo begins to split into identical twins but stops part of the way leaving the partially separated egg to mature into a conjoined fetus.

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ARROYO: If they cannot prove it, they should cut theirs. PDI PHOTO

Mike Arroyo . . .

From page A1

Arroyo has challenged his critics by offering his manhood if they can find a $20,000-a-night hotel room in Las Vegas.

"I challenge them, anyone of them. If they can find a room in Las Vegas that's $20,000 [per night], I'll cut off my balls," the President's husband told a news conference at the Breakthrough Restaurant here on Wednesday.

"But if they cannot [find such a room], they should cut theirs," he told his critics.

Arroyo was reacting to reports that he allegedly stayed at a $20,000-a-night suite at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas where the match between Filipino boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and Mexico's Erik Morales was held in March.

The controversy stemmed from a blind item in a column by INQUIRER sports columnist Recah Trinidad, which said that a "heavy weight" backer of Pacquiao stayed in the opulent hotel room.

An 'invention'

"There is no such thing as a $20,000-a-night room. That is what you call *imbento* (invention). The sad part is that media played up to it," the First Gentleman said.

He pointed out that the MGM Hotel website listed the most expensive room as $6,000 per night. "Yet ours was complimentary. It was free," he said.

Arroyo lamented the controversy surrounding his Las Vegas trip to watch the Pacquiao fight.

"We went there to support Pacquiao. Why do they turn something that Filipinos do to support their countrymen ... into something bad? They invent. I cannot understand the Filipino mentality. *Parang* crab mentality *talaga*. It's terrible."

He also denied speculations that his family was involved in the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

"We are not involved in anyway in jueteng. We've never been and will never be involved in jueteng," said Arroyo.

'M-16'

Three relatives of a top government official identified by their code names M1, M2, JS7 were allegedly the biggest recipients of payoffs from jueteng operations in the country. The trio allegedly also dictated the appointment of officials in the top police positions in provinces with jueteng operations.

Arroyo denied speculations that he and his brother Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo and his son Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo" were the ones being referred to in the report.

"*Ang meron, M-16 pero ginagamit 'yan sa* shooting (There's an M-16 rifle but it is used for shooting)," said Rep. Ignacio Arroyo who was at the press conference. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Defensor lashes back at Corpus

From page A1

pus or Secretary Mike Defensor to air their side," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a dwIZ radio interview.

Baseless accusations

Defensor, who is returning from Burma today, said he was not even aware of the details of the NRDC's agreement with ATI-Iveco or that the memorandum of agreement had been approved because he had given up his NRDC post to Corpus in December 2004.

"If it was through him (Corpus) that these baseless accusations had come from, then he should go to jail for approving anomalous transactions in his board," Defensor said in a statement released at a press conference called by NRDC president Angelico Salud yesterday.

Salud said Corpus did not raise the issue of overpricing during three board meetings in December, January and February when the agreement with ATI and Iveco was discussed and later approved.

He said Defensor had attended the first board meeting only to introduce Corpus as the new NRDC chair appointed by the President.

He said Defensor did not attend the two other meetings in which the ATI-Iveco agreement was taken up because he was no longer NRDC chair.

Free hand

"Secretary Mike Defensor gave Corpus a free hand in the engine replacement program ... Gen. Corpus had full control of the NRDC," Salud said.

During the three board meetings, concerns were raised on the capability of the jeepney drivers to pay P120,000 for the new engines and the guarantee cover being pressed by ATI-Iveco, but these were addressed, Salud said.

He said the MOA stipulated that the engines would be payable in three years with 12-percent interest per year, and that the NRDC would not commit to guarantee cover for the $200-million loan being sought by ATI-Iveco from the Trade and Investment Development Corp. (Tidcorp), also known as the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency.

"Our board saw the benefits of the MOA and approved it, including Gen. Corpus, who was the chairman," Salud said.

He said he was present when Corpus received some Iveco representatives who paid a courtesy call on the NRDC chief in December 2004.

Commitment of support

"They explained to him the mechanics of the project. Gen. Corpus understood the benefits that our country would derive from that kind of a project considering it would not entail any cost from government, and made a commitment to the investors that he would support the program," Salud said.

Iveco is a pioneer in the manufacture of diesel engines and the common rail injections being used by Nissan, Mitsubishi and Toyota. It also makes engines for Ferrari, Renault and Fiat.

Non-exclusive

Salud clarified that the MOA with ATI-Iveco, though approved by the NRDC board, has not yet been signed because ATI-Iveco was still uncertain whether it could secure a $200-million loan from Tidcorp.

DEFENSOR: He should go to jail for approving anomalous deal. PDI PHOTO

CORPUS: Looking for a good excuse for a grand exit? PDI PHOTO

He said that even if the agreement is signed and published, it would be non-exclusive. Other companies with the capability to produce new diesel engines at a price affordable to jeepney drivers were welcome to make a proposal to the NRDC, he said.

But no company has come forward so far because the project requires a great amount of money, he said.

Defensor said he would like to believe that Corpus was not the source of the INQUIRER report but said he was "sure" the general was behind it because Corpus had been "badmouthing" him since last week.

He said Corpus not only implicated him in the ATI-Iveco agreement but has also alleged that he was allowing the sale of the gold mined from the Diwalwal, Moncaya in Davao in the open market, instead of to the central bank.

Gold from Diwalwal

The NRDC staff who had collected the gold from Diwalwal and turned it over to the central bank had their salaries delayed, allegedly by Defensor's people in the NRDC board. The staff went on strike last week. The strike reportedly prompted Corpus' resignation.

"On the day he resigned, I made an effort to call him because I was not aware of the issues. I thought there were just some problems, and I wanted to thresh it out. When I found out he was resigning at my expense, I told the President I would not talk to him (Corpus) and I would not call him," Defensor told reporters in a phone interview.

"He (Corpus) was trying to look for a good excuse and grand exit at my expense. He's coming out with this, badmouthing me through the grapevine, even in front of a Cabinet member," Defensor said.

He said he learned of the allegations against him concerning the ATI-Iveco deal through his sister and about the Diwalwal issue from his friends.

Presscon canceled

Defensor said he asked the President's permission to call a press conference to answer Corpus' charges on April 28, the day after Corpus resigned but Corpus asked him not to come out in the media.

He said that 30 minutes before the press conference, Corpus, along with Jun Lozada and Narda Camacho, the mother of former finance chief Lito Camacho, came to his office and told him of the allegations against him.

The INQUIRER and other media outfits, however, did not receive an advisory on the April 28 press conference that Defensor claimed was canceled 30 minutes before its schedule.

Defensor said that during the confrontation, he told Corpus that what the general did was wrong and that he (Corpus) was not the only one trying to protect his name.

Apology?

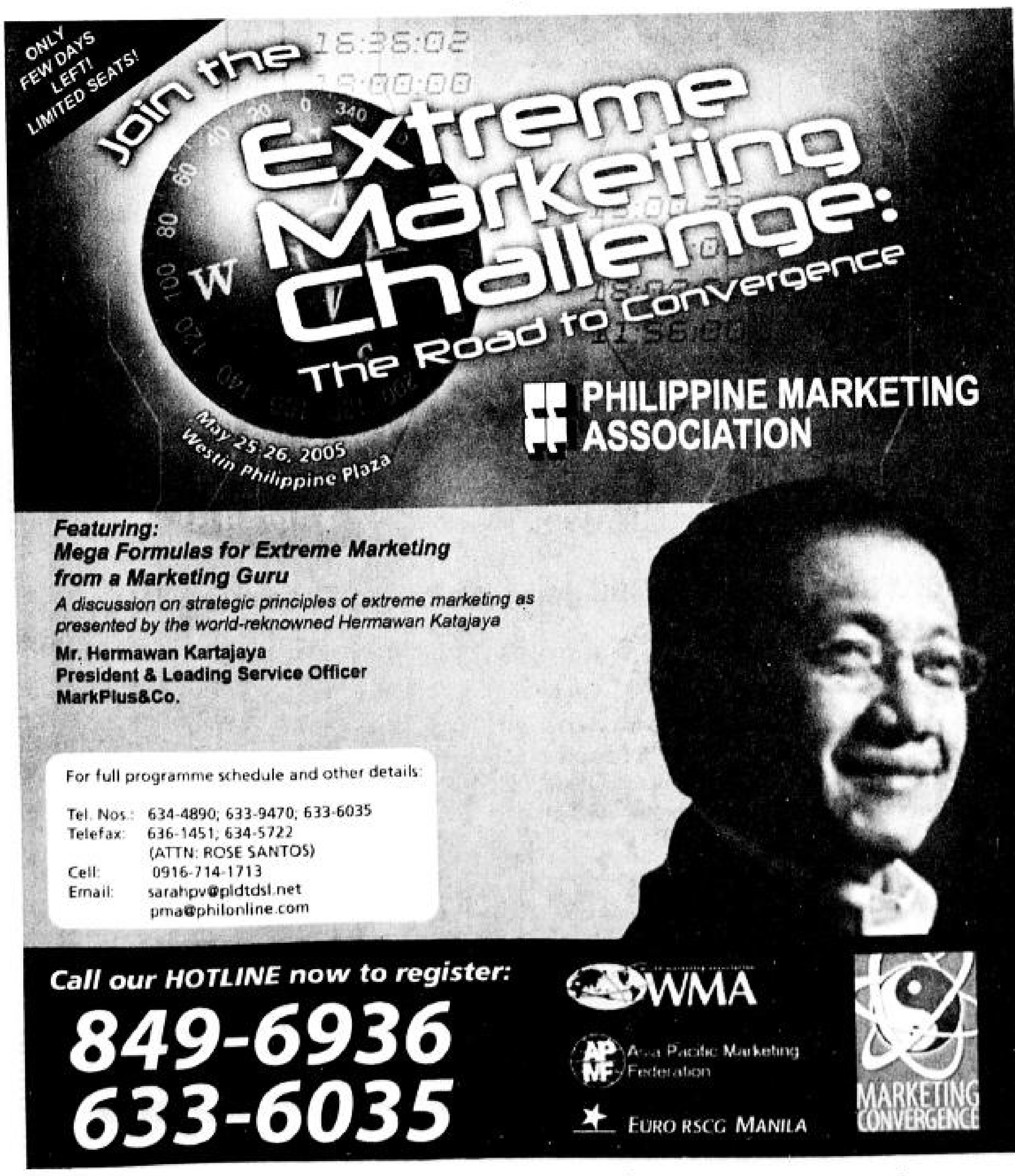
Defensor recalled Corpus saying in Filipino: "Please forgive me, I only said those things because I was feeling low because I had resigned the night before. I told a few friends ... I won't say another word."

Defensor said he would not be willing to meet again with Corpus to clarify the issues. He dared the general to take a lie detector test or submit to a third-party investigation to see who really intervened in the NRDC-ATI-Iveco deal.

"I accepted him thinking we would be helping each other in reforestation. I don't want to say what his motivation is ... I am surprised by this kind of behavior from him," Defensor said.

He said Corpus had been "a friend" since his days as a congressman.

Defensor said he would be willing to accept a public apology from Corpus. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



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Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies
President, Dale Carnegie Philippines

Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme

Speaker: **Mr. Mark Yambot**
Director for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

Session Three:
Pain Makes Gains: Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain

Speaker: **Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito**
President, United Laboratories Group

Session Four:
The New Empire: Shaping the Future of High-Rise Condominiums

Speaker: **Mr. Luke Tan**
Director, Investor Relation, Megaworld

Session Five:
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events

Speaker: **Mr. Christophe Bezu**
Senior Vice President, Adidas-Salomon AG, Hong Kong

Day 2 : May 26, 2005
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Marketing Consultant
Marketing Director, La Salle Graduate School

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Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru

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President & Leading Service Officer, MarkPlus&Co.

Session Seven:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor

Speaker: **Mr. Joselito B. Ortega**
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab, Inc.

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The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth

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SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank

Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence

Speaker: **Nicanor C. Gabunada**
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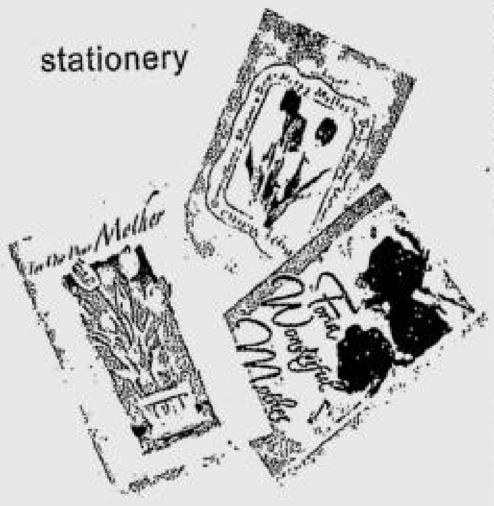

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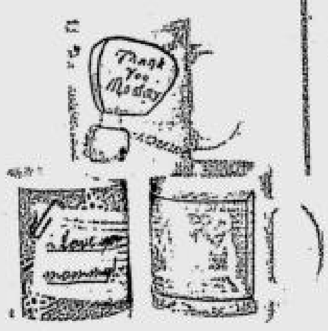

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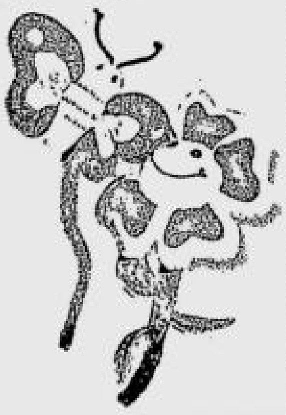

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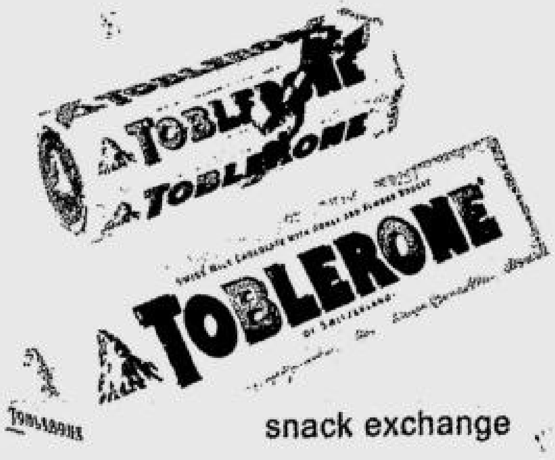

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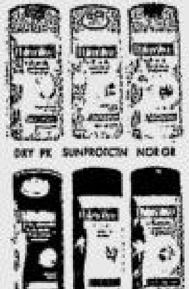

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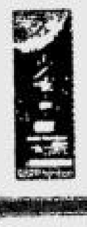

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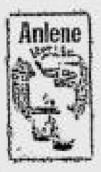

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Blair wins anew but weakened by Iraq

LONDON—Britain's Tony Blair survived opposition to the Iraq war to win a historic third straight term in power on Friday—but saw his authority weakened by a drastically reduced majority in parliament.

"I know Iraq has been a divisive issue in this country, but I hope we now can unite again and look to the future," a chastened Blair said after victory was confirmed overnight

Of the main global allies in Iraq—Blair, US President George W. Bush, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and Spain's Jose Maria Aznar—only Aznar lost his country's top office in postwar elections.

With most results in, Blair was heading for a majority of between 60 and 80 seats in the 646-seat House of Commons, sharply down from 161 last time. Projections suggested Labor only secured 36 percent of the vote, an all-time low for a winning party.

That could hinder his legislative programme and hasten a handover to his powerful finance minister and assumed heir apparent Gordon Brown, analysts said.

Markets were not expected to move significantly, even though Blair won a smaller majority than many predicted. In an early indication before the London stock market opened, the pound barely budged against the dollar and euro in currency trading.

"It seems as if it is clear that the British people wanted the return of a Labor government but with a reduced majority," Blair said at his northern Sedgefield constituency. "We will have to respond to that sensibly and wisely and responsibly."

Blair looked more ebullient later at a party with Labor Party loyalists in London, grinning and telling activists: "It's an extraordinary achievement... I love you!"

But the mood still contrasted with the outright euphoria of landslide victories in 1997 and 2001.

Blair, who turned 52 on Friday, has said he plans to stand down at the end of a third term.

The election result will fuel a view among many Labor members of Parliament (MPs) that Blair is a liability rather than asset. Some will be looking immediately for Brown, who is far more popular with both party and public, to take over.

The 54-year-old chancellor of the exchequer is widely credited with masterminding the stability of Britain's economy, which has outperformed its European neighbors during the global downturn and was a big vote-winner for Labor.

"Power will start visibly seeping through the walls to Number 11 Downing Street to the Chancellor," said Kevin Theakston, politics professor at Leeds University.

With 615 results declared by 0715 GMT, Labor had won 352 seats, compared with 192 for the Conservatives and 59 for Britain's third party the Liberal Democrats.

"Clearly this is a very unpopular government. It has done very badly," said politics professor Anthony King.

Blair is only the second premier in British history after Margaret Thatcher to win three elections in a row. He is also the first leader to win three successive terms for Labor, the socialist party founded a century ago and now the dominant force of the British center-left.

Michael Howard's opposition Conservatives, the once-mighty party of Thatcher and Winston Churchill, face a third consecutive term in opposition.

But their strategy of homing in on emotive issues like immigration and targeting key winnable seats had paid off with a moderately improved showing.

"What has happened on this election day marks a significant step toward our recovery," Howard said as he conceded defeat on a national scale but held his seat in the southern coastal constituency of Folkestone and Hythe.

Blair has been called a "liar" and "poodle" of Bush over Iraq. Accused of hyping intelligence over Saddam Hussein's banned arms and misleading Britons over the legality of war, Blair has refused to apologize, saying he did the right thing.

He lost at least one loyal MP, Labor's Oona King, solely to the Iraq factor. She was beaten by George Galloway, a radical expelled from the Labor Party for attacking Blair over the war, in an east London seat with a large Muslim population.

"All the people you killed, all the lies you told, have come back to haunt you," Galloway told Blair in his victory speech.

Blair said last year a third term would be his last, a move critics say may make him a lame duck whose government will be riven by in-fighting between potential successors.

The premier faces a fight to persuade Britons to approve the EU constitution in a promised 2006 referendum.

If Blair's majority ends up much below 70, he also faces the grim prospect of having his legislative plans—particularly public sector reform—blocked by a hard core of implacable opponents in his party still angered by the Iraq war. *Reuters*

BRITAIN'S Prime Minister Tony Blair, right, with his wife Cherie return to London's 10 Downing Street, May 6. Blair won a historic third term as prime minister but his Labor Party suffered a sharply reduced parliamentary majority. AP

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He's back at No. 10 Downing—but for how long?

By Katherine Baldwin

LONDON—Tony Blair has only just walked back into No. 10 Downing Street—but already Britons are asking when he will be out the door.

Despite awarding his Labor party a historic third straight term, disillusioned voters at least halved his parliamentary majority, denting his authority when he needs it more than ever.

With powerful finance minister Gordon Brown, 54, hungry for the top job and Blair, 52, saying he will not stand again, the prime minister could turn into a lame duck, analysts said.

Defeat in a planned 2006 referendum on the European Union constitution could trigger the end of the Blair era.

"As soon as the election is over the struggle begins for the future of the Labor party," said Eric Shaw, doctor of politics at Stirling University.

"Things are going to have to be resolved fairly quickly."

Friday's return to the prime minister's London home and office was relatively somber for Blair and a stark contrast to the euphoric scenes of 1997 when he swept to power with a landslide as the youngest British leader since the early 19th century.

Protests over his integrity and support for the US-led Iraq war, combined with disillusionment after eight years under Labor, prompted many voters to switch allegiance—cutting Blair's majority to between 60 and 80 seats from 161 before.

By historical standards, it is a respectable majority in the 646-seat parliament and a sufficient mandate to govern.

But next to Labor's last two landslides and in the wake of endless speculation about Blair's leadership, it can only precipitate his exit, analysts said.

"This will be seen as placing a question mark over his head.

It will make it more likely that he will go in a year or the next 18 months," said Kevin Theakston, politics professor at Leeds University.

Dogged by speculation about his health—he was treated for heart palpitations last year—and the damage from Iraq, Blair took the unprecedented step last year of saying he would serve a full third term, if elected, but not a fourth.

In 2006, Blair has promised a referendum on the EU treaty and must convince a British public overwhelmingly opposed to it.

France could still spare him that fight if it rejects the treaty on May 29—a move that would likely scupper it.

If the British referendum goes ahead, a "No" vote would likely force Blair's departure, analysts said.

Victory in the referendum, too, could provide Blair with a convenient way out of office, having fulfilled his long-stated dream of putting Britain "at the heart of Europe."

Blair's powers of persuasion were once legendary but some in Labor feel the man who was once Labor's greatest electoral asset has cost it votes—for which he may have to pay a price.

Blair and Brown, whose rivalry dates back years, united for the campaign, putting the economy at the heart of Labor's bid for re-election. But pundits said the truce would not last.

Bookmakers William Hill on Friday were already offering odds of 2/1 on Brown becoming prime minister in 2007.

With Brown, the chancellor of the exchequer, demonstrably more popular among the Labor faithful and the public, many in the party may feel they would be better with him at the helm.

"Power will start visibly seeping through the walls to Number 11 Downing Street to the chancellor," Theakston said.

Blair helped transform the Labor party in the 1990s into an electable force, dragging it to the political center ground to woo Britain's middle classes. Many among Labor's grass roots have always been uncomfortable with the shift.

Blair has vowed to press ahead with reforms to the public services that include the involvement of the private sector—a move that irks Labor traditionalists.

Blair's majority is sizeable enough to ensure he can press ahead with planned legislation, including a bill to introduce compulsory identity cards, but Labor rebels could embarrass him on key votes and hamper any more radical reforms, analysts said. *Reuters*

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Chirac remarks on revolutionary nuke reactor project angers Japan

TOKYO—Japan has not given up its bid to host a pioneering nuclear reactor and is considering a formal protest over remarks by President Jacques Chirac claiming it will go to France, the science ministry said Friday.

Japan and France are both vying to play host to the 10-billion euro International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a revolutionary nuclear reactor which would emulate the sun's nuclear fusion process.

On Wednesday, Chirac told French television that France was "on the verge of getting ITER sited at Cadarache" in southern France, and the remarks angered the Japanese science ministry.

"We are considering lodging a protest through diplomatic channels with France over the president's remarks," Toichi Sakata, a senior official at the science ministry said. "His remarks were inappropriate," he added.

"The issue of deciding the ITER site has yet to be resolved. We are in the middle of negotiations," said Sakata, who is in Japan's negotiating team over the nuclear project.

He said Chirac's remarks were "unilateral," arguing that the president's comments "certainly would not work positively for the current negotiations."

At a meeting in Geneva Thursday, Japanese and EU officials struck a deal that maps out future cooperation over ITER, the French government said, paving the way for a long-awaited decision on where the nuclear reactor will be built.

The United States and South Korea support Japan's offer to build ITER in Rokkasho-mura, northern Japan, while the European Union, China and Russia back France's bid for the project in Cadarache.

Talks over choosing the ITER site have been long deadlocked, but local reports said this week that Tokyo would likely concede the project in exchange for getting preferential contracts and more jobs for Japanese researchers.

But Sakata dismissed the reports, saying Japan had no plans to withdraw from the competition.

"There is no change in our policy to bring the ITER project to Rokkasho-mura. We are not considering giving up on ITER at all," he said.

Akira Chiba, assistant press secretary at the Japanese foreign ministry, also told reporters "We are still negotiating with the EU and no conclusion has been made on the issue yet."

ITER is designed to generate inexhaustible supplies of electricity but is not expected to be operational before 2050.

The budget for ITER is projected to be 10 billion euros ($13 billion) over the next 30 years, including 4.7 billion euros to build the reactor alone.

If Rokkasho-mura won the ITER site, Japan would have to pay between 600 billion and 800 billion yen ($5.8 billion and 7.7 billion) over a 30-year period, according to the Asahi Shimbun daily.

Some finance and trade ministry officials here have voiced concern over the huge financial burden associated with ITER, saying such big expenditures could have a negative impact on the budgets of other science and technology projects. *AFP*

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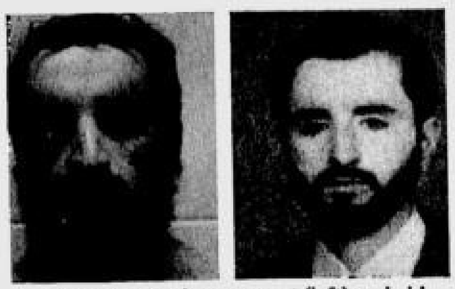
Agents used teargas to get al-Qaida kingpin



COMBO picture shows recent (left) and old pictures of wanted terror suspect al-Qaida's Libyan planner Abu Faraj Farj. AFP

ISLAMABAD—Clad in the traditional, all-covering burqa normally worn by Muslim women in conservative areas, the security agents chased the bearded man into a guesthouse in Mardan, a town in northwestern Pakistan.

Minutes earlier the fugitive, alleged al-Qaida number three Abu Faraj al-Libbi, had escaped when the motorbike he was riding with another man was ambushed 500 yards away on the main road, the town's deputy superintendent of police Amanullah Khan said.

Khan and other officers rushed to the scene on Monday morning after hearing loud bursts of gunfire from another part of Mardan and presuming that someone was being kidnapped.

"He entered one of the three rooms of a tribal house. Security men opened the first room but found it empty and also another," he said.

The owner of the small guesthouse, Khalid Khan, said he saw al-Libbi and another man being stopped by a grey Suzuki car and then being ordered to surrender at gunpoint, before running off.

"He took shelter in my house and hid himself in a room," he said.

He said several security men, some of whom were hiding in the graveyard wearing burqas, arrived at the scene and surrounded the house. They challenged the suspect to surrender and after locating him hiding in a room they started firing teargas shells, he said.

"The third was locked and no one was answering knocks and calls. Police broke the windows and threw teargas grenades inside the room and the trick worked," added police officer Khan, who is no relation to the guesthouse owner.

"The dense smoke forced him to come out with his hands raised and his head bowed," he said. "We found a cellphone on him and no weapons or anything else," he said.

The police officer said he recognized al-Libbi from wanted pictures that had appeared in Pakistani newspapers.

The security officials then whisked him away from the scene before police had a chance to speak to him, but not before grabbing the phone.

When police later entered the room they discovered tiny shreds of paper, apparently a sheet that had been torn apart in haste by al-Libbi, he said.

"It appeared that there were a few names written on the paper, but it was impossible to read the material as the paper was shredded into pieces," Khan said.

The other suspect arrested with al-Libbi apparently did not join the initial escape attempt. The authorities would not identify him, but one senior official said he was also a key al-Qaida figure, with a reward of $ 4 million on his head.

Al-Libbi had a $5-million US reward, officials said.

Meanwhile, the next time he saw al-Libbi's face, haggard, his beard matted and his face mottled because of a skin disorder, it was all over the front of Thursday's newspapers. *AFP*

Earth's surface has actually become brighter

REVERSING a decades-long trend toward "global dimming," the Earth's surface has become brighter since 1990, scientists say.

The brightening means that more sunlight—and thus more heat—is reaching the ground. That could partly explain the record-high global temperatures reported in the late 1990s, and it could accelerate the warming trend in the future.

"We see the dimming is no longer there," said Dr. Martin Wild, a climatologist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and the lead author of one of three papers analyzing sunlight that appear in Friday's issue of the journal Science. "If anything, there is a brightening."

Some scientists have reported that from 1960 to 1990, the amount of sunshine reaching the ground dropped at a rate of 2 to 3 percent per decade.

The new papers also call attention to a major gap in the understanding of climate. Scientists do not exactly know what caused the dimming and brightening or how these changes affect the rest of the climate system.

The Earth reflects about 30 percent of the incoming sunlight back into space. Slight changes in the reflectivity, possibly caused by changes in cloud cover and air pollution, can have as much impact on the climate as greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide accumulating in the atmosphere.

"I think what could have happened is the dimming between the '60s and '80s counteracted the greenhouse effect," Wild said. "When the dimming faded, the effects of the greenhouse gases became more evident. There is no masking by the dimming anymore."

But Dr. Rachel T. Pinker, who led the team that wrote one of the other papers, said the picture might not be that simple. More sunlight should increase evaporation rates, leading to more clouds, and the additional cloud cover could then increase the Earth's reflectivity, limiting the warming effect. *New York Times News Service*

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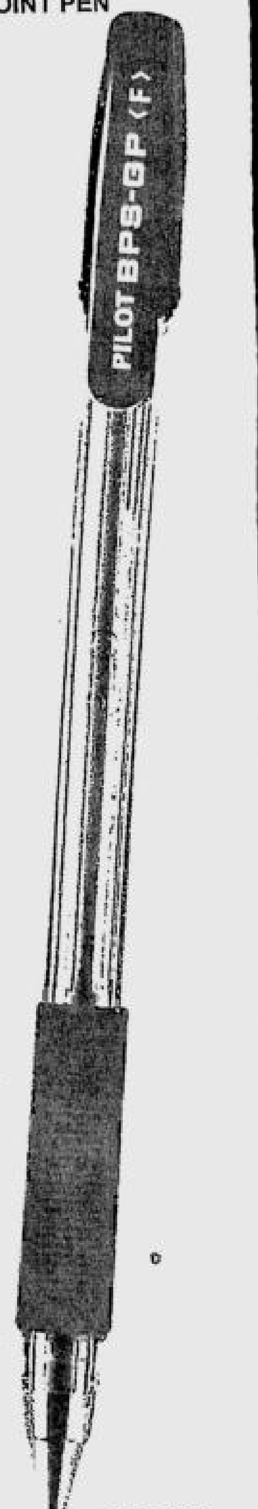

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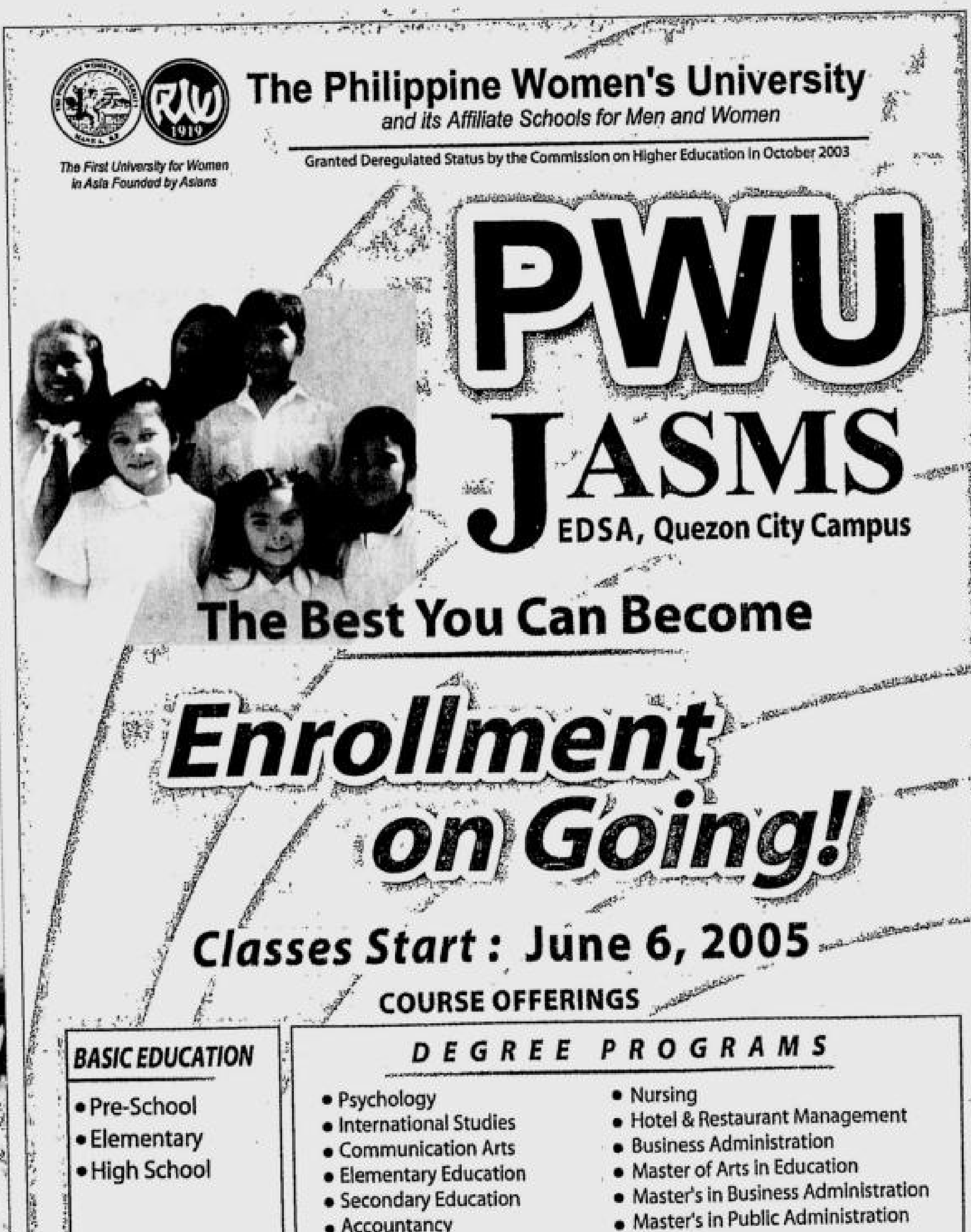

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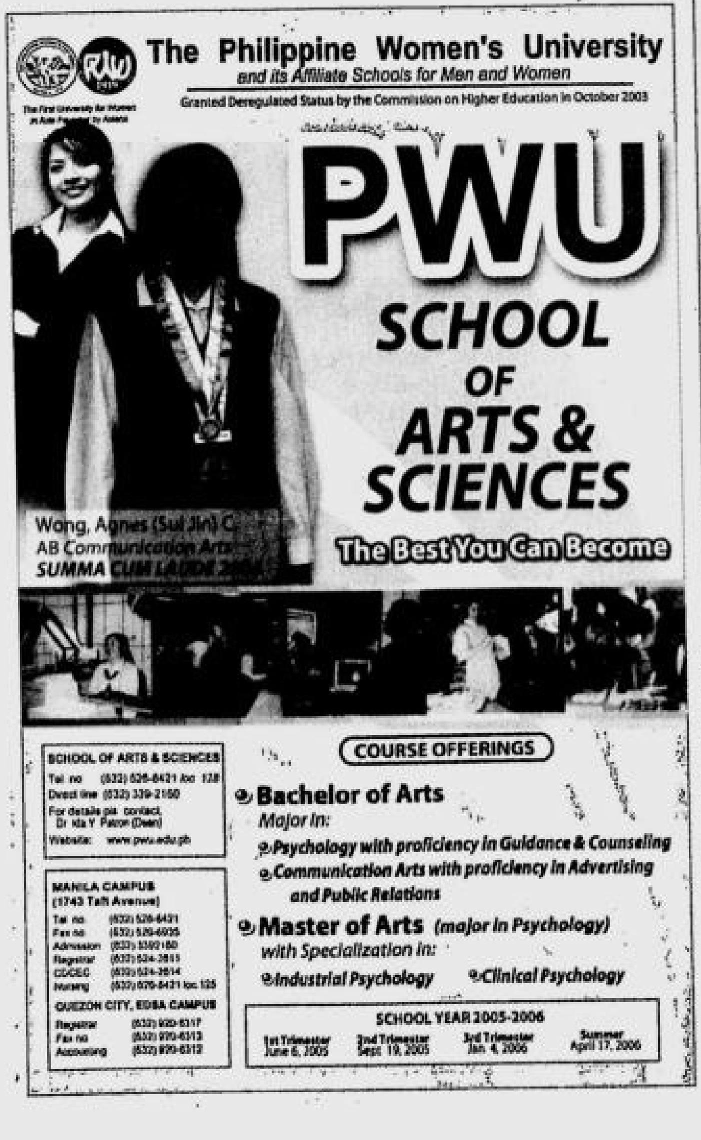

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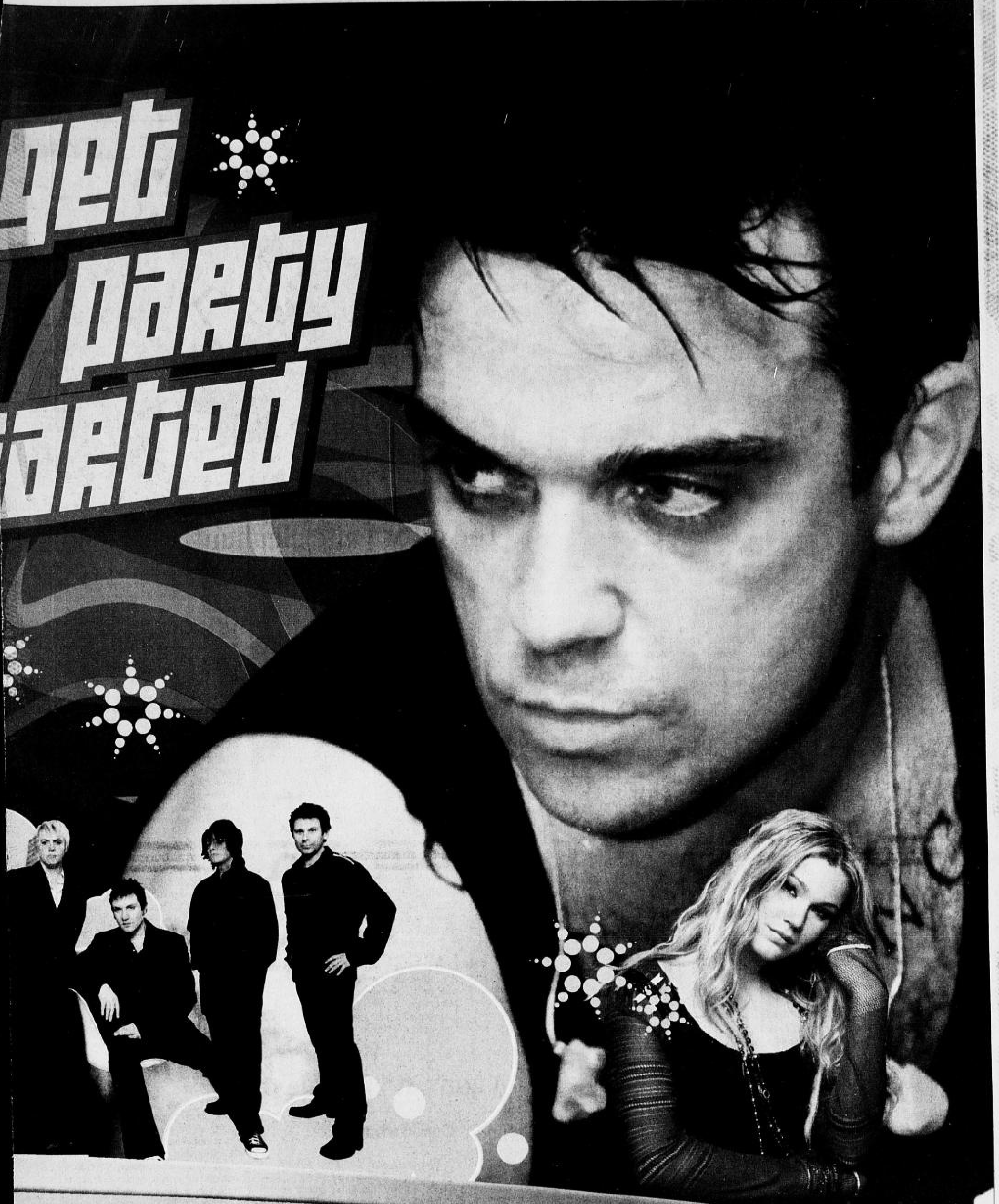

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
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•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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No fear

EDITORIAL

THE TIMING was perversely perfect. Barely had Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye dismissed as an exaggeration the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists' damning description of the Philippines as the most murderous country for members of the media than another radio commentator bit the dust. It's as if by shooting Klein Cantoneros of dxAA in Dipolog City six times as he headed home shortly past midnight on May 4, his assailants and the parties who wanted him dead meant to display to all and sundry that despite the authorities' protestations, it's all systems go. And no, Cantoneros' assailants and the parties who wanted him dead seemed to say, not even the protection of the Philippine National Police—which, in Bunye's cheerful estimation, journalists can readily seek—would guarantee safety.

If nothing else, the embarrassment that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is suffering on the global stage ought to galvanize official action and produce satisfactory results. But that's if the administration cares at all (and indications are that it does not). And if the theories so far aired by PNP officials are all there is to go by—for example, three "influential" people are behind the attack on Cantoneros—it does not seem like there is much hope.

This is not being mean-spirited in the face of PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao's declared efforts to stem the tide of media murders. (Lomibao had said he made it a point to visit the city or town where the crime was committed, to convey to his lieutenants the urgency of the situation and the necessity of speedy investigation.) This is saying that until a just solution is found for the shocking number of Filipino journalists killed—counting Cantoneros, 24 dead in the last three years, 67 since 1986 (failed attempts not counted)—the record will have to speak for itself. And the record is nothing short of dismal.

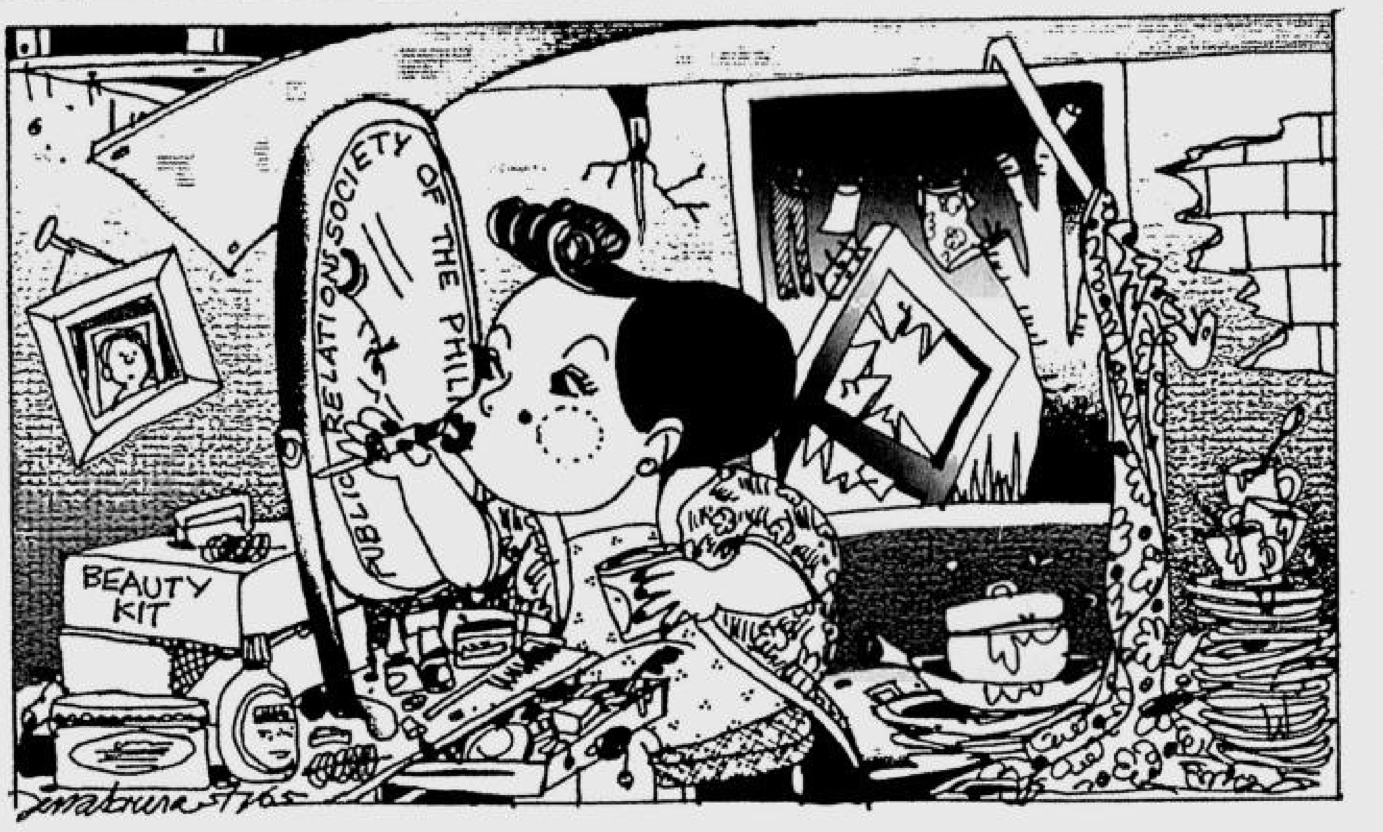
One thing is clear, and it is important to say it again and again: The perpetrators are not afraid—not of the PNP, the military, or Malacañang. The fear of arrest and punishment is quite simply not present. That members of the police and military are said to be involved in a number of cases shows how the law is being flouted by the very ones constituted to uphold it.

And that at least one ranking police official deems the issue a fitting subject for a joke illustrates the authorities' cavalier stance toward the media murders. (Recall that Supt. Efren Yebra, PNP director of Camarines Norte, was quoted as saying last December that he was moved by a desire to kill every time he laid eyes on a member of the media. He apologized—twice—for the remark last February, saying he meant it only as a joke.) Even the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, let slip a telling quip last Wednesday in Bacolod City, according to an abs-cbnNEWS.com report. Speaking before members of the Negros Press Club on the occasion of the induction of its officers, Arroyo was quoted as saying that no media practitioner on the island had been killed because the journalists there were "responsible" reporters. He went on to say, according to the report, that the Philippine media, particularly those based in Manila, wielded "too much power" and "do not know how to police themselves."

It would appear then that for journalists, staying alive is dependent on authorities' definitions of power and responsibility. That most of those killed have been described as "crusading" and "hard-hitting" indicates that by their reports and comments on power-holders, state terror, and the seamy interstices of the government *apparat*, they put their lives on the line—and lost.

"But time and again, Philippine media remain the last recourse of citizens who find the road to justice and good governance blocked by rapacious or abusive government officials and their patrons in the private sector," the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said in a statement to mark World Press Freedom Day last May 3, shortly before Cantoneros was ambushed and subsequently expired. "This is why journalists are being killed in this country, together with activists, human rights workers, environmentalists, anti-corruption advocates, lawyers and judges."

More than ever, it behooves Filipino journalists to come to terms with what they are up against: nothing short of a deadly conspiracy.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The dirty white elephant

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SENIOR Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno deserves warm commendation for his speech before the national convention of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines last April 19 in Baguio City. He denounced the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and deplored the payment of the loans extended by creditors who were aware of the corrupt nature of the Marcos dictatorship that obtained such loans for its construction.

Speaking on the theme of the convention for "Alleviating Poverty and Resolving the Fiscal Crisis," Puno suggested that refusal to continue paying such loans would considerably relieve the country of one of the heaviest financial burdens the taxpayers are shouldering at the rate of $170,000 daily (P9.35 million a day or P3.4 billion a year) to continue until 2018. From 1986 to 1998, we paid P46.4 million just to service the loans.

Construction of the BNPP began in 1975 and was completed in 1984 at the cost of P2.3 billion from the original estimated cost of P600 million. The difference consisted of bribes allegedly paid to certain government officials whose identities are not difficult to discover. Last year the Sandiganbayan ordered the arrest of Herminio Disini, a crony of Ferdinand Marcos, for allegedly receiving $17 million from two American companies that won the contracts for the construction of the plant. The PCGG charged that the payoff was shared between Marcos and Disini.

Why was Disini's arrest ordered by the Sandiganbayan only in 2004, 18 years after Edsa 1? And where is Herminio Disini now?

For all the expense the Philippine government has incurred so far, we have yet to draw a single watt from the plant. The Filipino people have derived absolutely no benefit from the BNPP, which was declared unsafe by a commission headed by Justice Secretary Ricardo C. Puno before Edsa 1. In April 1986, it was mothballed by President Corazon Aquino because of safety defects, among the most serious of which is its location on an earthquake fault. Our government has sued Westinghouse for overpricing and bribery but, oddly enough, continues paying the construction cost it is questioning.

The most important point raised by Justice Puno is the illegality of the construction contract for which the creditors extended a loan. His point is that the loans were not binding *ab initio* because the creditors knew about the wickedness of the Marcos government to which the loans were extended. Everybody knew about the corruption of the Marcos dictatorship. Everybody knew about it; in fact, it was known throughout the world.

The creditors especially knew about this vice; as astute businessmen, they would have been providently cautious about the borrower's credentials, particularly its capacity to pay and, no less important, its moral character. Marcos and his illicit government could not have qualified on these criteria, but the creditors willingly extended the massive loans just the same. It is not believable that they were being merely careless; the more rational conclusion is that they had acted fraudulently in accommodating—or more credibly, in conniving with—the disreputable Marcos and his cohorts.

Justice Puno points to the experience of South Africa, now under black majority rule, which is questioning the loans contracted by the apartheid government. The new government of Iraq is now reluctant to repay the loans obtained by Saddam Hussein and his deposed government. He also recalled that the United States canceled Cuba's debt to Spain after the Spanish-American War in 1898. The several German industrialists who collaborated with the Nazi government were also held guilty with the military persons accused at the Nuremberg Trials. He said that the same treatment should be taken against the creditors who knowingly and fraudulently extended those loans to the Marcos government that have prejudiced the Filipino people.

Puno cites Noreen Hertz, an economist from the University of Cambridge who says, "there are debts which should be considered illegitimate and therefore should not be paid." But he would not go that far; he suggests instead an independent ad hoc intermediary group that would assist heavily indebted countries from being subjected to the usual penalties for debt default, including the inability to continue rendering public services.

I have not yet read Justice Puno's speech but have only relied on the report published in this paper the other Thursday. It is enough to earn my praise for Rey. I'm proud of him because I was a sponsor at his wedding many years ago to Luz, my former student, and during the renewal of their marriage vows on their silver anniversary.

A consistent ethic of life

COMMENTARY

Fr. Ferdinand Santos, Ph.D.

THE LATE John Paul II coined two phrases that have become current in contemporary Christian activism: "the culture of life" and "the culture of death." These are ideas associated with tendencies within contemporary society that either promote life or lead to its depreciation. In "The Gospel of Life," John Paul described what he saw as the biggest threat to humanity today: a monumental debasement of life through drugs, war and arms, abortion, euthanasia, destruction of the environment and the unjust distribution of wealth. These, he said, are often caused and supported by economic, social and political structures that do not promote life, but actually conspire against it. Decrying this as a "culture of death," he called on everyone to promote its antithesis, a "culture of life."

This evaluation of the current human condition is a radically holistic one. It sees life in its totality, not from a diminished perspective that fragments and compartmentalizes it. Hence, the promotion of a "culture of life" involves upholding the dignity of life in all its stages, from birth to death and every single stage in between. It means that while life begins at conception, it doesn't end there. While it ends with natural death, its defense cannot begin only when one is near that point. And while improving the "quality of life" is important in safeguarding human dignity, it is an impoverishment of our very humanity when life's initial and terminal stages are reduced to contingencies that have no significance beyond subjective whim.

It is really unfortunate that John Paul's comprehensive view has been broken up lately and the two phrases he coined are sometimes bandied about like slogans in defense of a more truncated understanding of life. This explains to a great extent, why Christian activism is currently split between those who believe they are promoting life but choose to focus their efforts on beginning and end-of-life issues and those who see these as of secondary importance to the more pressing middle-of-life issues of peace and social justice.

It also explains that odd statement describing John Paul II as "theologically conservative," but "liberal" on social justice issues. By this is meant that while the Pope championed social justice, he was also against abortion and the entire gamut of issues usually identified with it, a position called "paradoxical" by some, if not downright "contradictory"—as if the rejection of social injustice and the acceptance of abortion at the same time wouldn't be.

In reality, the Church's teaching on life is neither contradictory nor paradoxical, but represents an ever-widening thrust toward coherence and consistency. The dignity of the human person, understood in its totality, demands a consistent ethic of life. This requires the creation and promotion of social structures and policies that support the total development of persons, from birth to death, and every phase in between.

To be consistent, an ethic that promotes life speaks and acts against any practice that reduces life to a mere object. This would include abortion, euthanasia, war and the death penalty, sexism and an entire range of dehumanizing issues. But it also speaks and acts on behalf of affordable education and health care, just wages, humane working conditions, social and economic security, sustainable development, peace and the promotion of community, as well as care for the environment.

The promotion of a "culture of life" demands the support of a consistent ethic, not a fragmentary version that devalues life. Such an ethic is founded on the God-given value of each person in every stage and area of life. It is the only adequate and realistic point of orientation for the creation of programs and policies that recognize and uphold the inherent dignity of the human person.

The Church's teaching on the value and sanctity of life is a "seamless garment" that cannot simply be cut up to fit specific and usually self-serving agendas. Any view that does so is ultimately self-defeating. Consider for instance the inconsistency prevalent in the First World, between liberals who champion social justice but consider the right to abortion sacrosanct, and conservatives who go hoarse screaming against physician-assisted suicide but have no qualms about buying shoes made in Third-World sweatshops run with child labor.

Neither are these First-World inconsistencies. The Philippines is rife with them. After all, a society where the majority of children are already born malnourished, will not even finish grade school and stand very little chance of leading full lives is not a society that respects life. A society where many who are poor suffer actual hunger and cannot afford medicines they need to sustain themselves is not a society that values life. A society where an individual can simply be shot while finishing a meal in a restaurant or strangled to death in her home is not a society that protects life. A society where journalists are murdered for pursuing the truth is not a society that allies itself with life.

A society where the wealthy believe their responsibility to others is fulfilled once they've thrown their scraps to the poor is not a society that promotes life. A society whose civil and religious leaders pay lip service to fighting a "culture of death" while conniving with each other by turning a blind eye to the other's omissions is not a society that is on the side of life. A society that claims to promote a "culture of life" despite contrary structures and policies is a fraud, a sham, and is bound to self-destruct. No amount of pro-life rhetoric will change that.

Fr. Ferdinand Santos, Ph.D., is a priest of the Diocese of Cubao and a professor of philosophy and theology at Providence College in Rhode Island, USA.

Culture as catalyst

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE SUNDAY dzRH program I co-host with Cecile Alvarez, Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez, who chairs the Region 6 League of Governors, was so fired up about the role of culture in the alleviation of poverty and in unifying the people. Her province had just finished the cultural training program conducted earlier this year under the auspices of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Kalahi Cultural Services for the Poor. Perez said the two-day workshop in Antique drew about 100 participants from various towns considered among its poorest. Young people from marginalized sectors as well as the indigenous Ati tribes were exposed to the creative processes—music, drama, dance, crafts and rituals—and refreshed about the dynamic history of Panay: how 10 intrepid *datus* braved the rough seas from Borneo in search of freedom and a better life many hundreds of years ago and landed in Panay. That voyage is celebrated yearly in the Biniraya festival in Antique, which was begun by the late martyr Evelio Javier when he was governor in the early 1980s.

* * *

Perez said she was amazed that her constituents integrated so well as they painted, sang, staged dramas, etc. at the workshop. NCCA executive director Cecile Alvarez and artistic coordinator Gardi Labad arrived from Manila to speak about "cultural care-giving" and the former moved them to tears with her spiel on patriotism. Perez noted that the Ati tribal folks used to feel left out of events, but after the workshop they lost their sense of isolation. The young people realized that while they are poor materially, they are rich in other aspects such as the arts and cultural expression. Given their fired-up sense of dignity and pride, Perez mused, those people could be moved toward livelihood and good governance and whatever else. "But we have to begin with love for and pride in our province," she stressed.

* * *

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Perez stressed the potential of arts, heritage and culture as "a catalyst for development." After noting the great enthusiasm of her provincemates, she recommended to GMA that Philippine arts, culture and heritage be mobilized as "essential strategic components" in the fight against poverty and corruption. She stressed that the Kalahi cultural program is "directed at the very core of the Filipino: his identity, his heart, his creative spirit." As she put it, "The well-motivated Filipino poor, who will rise from the bootstraps of poverty and corruption through the resurrection of his creative energies via the arts, will be more empowered to seize his own life and destiny for social transformation."

* * *

I've written about 20 depositors who lost sizable accounts in the PNB Sucat branch due to the machinations of two unscrupulous former bank officials, and unfortunately the bank continues to ignore their plea for the return of their deposits. This time, a former neighbor from Camp Aguinaldo, Celia Bulan, an assistant professor in speech communication and theater arts at the University of the Philippines, wrote to me about her sad experience with a UCPB ATM. Last year, Bulan lost P15,000 when the UCPB Katipunan cash dispensing station yielded no cash after four attempts to withdraw money but with paper receipts showing deductions in her account. She immediately sent a written complaint to the UCPB ATM head office in Makati, but the personnel ignored her complaint in a "most cavalier and unprofessional fashion," she said.

* * *

Subsequently a UCPB staffer called up Bulan to say that "our journal shows all your cash transactions were successful" and since then the bank has simply ignored her pleas. The PNB sales marketing officer in UP Diliman, Guadalupe Fernandez, was able to help her recover P3,000 of the lost ATM funds, but the P12,000 balance, representing two-thirds of her P18,000 monthly salary at UP, has not been returned. Recently a letter from the UCPB ATM Makati told her she won't get her money back because the bank "does not feel responsible" for the loss of her cash in the Loyola Megalink station. Bulan is asking government regulatory agencies: "What insurance does any ATM account have against maleficent forces that try to steal, intercept or machinate modus operandi in ATM machines?" She also warns all other depositors to be vigilant about their ATM accounts at UCPB.

* * *

Martha's Vineyard Inc. is a well-known group of ladies that decided over 20 years ago to develop themselves spiritually and minister to the less fortunate members of society through projects related to education, livelihood and housing and medical missions. Today Martha's Vineyard, whose models are the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Martha of the Martha-Mary (Magdalene) tandem, has over 100 Christian women members who are constantly raising funds for their myriad activities for the poor. One such fund-raising activity will be its sponsorship of the premier showing of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" on June 16, 2005 at 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. Featured artists are KC Concepcion and Karel Marquez, with Bobby Garcia directing. For tickets, please contact May at 890-4516, Atlantis Productions at 892-7078 or 840-1187 or Ticket World at 891-9999.

* * *

As this column comes out, I will be in exciting South Africa. Catch our regular show tomorrow night at 9:15 p.m. over dzRH, courtesy of Globe Telecom, as I chat with my co-host Cecile Alvarez from Capetown. We will interview some South Africans of Filipino descent as well as the five nuns from Iloilo who were sent three years ago to rescue the Capetown Carmel from what had seemed like certain closure due to very few vocations in the African nation.

David and Goliath

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY WAY of a preamble to her talk at the Abanse Pinay "Kapihan" last Wednesday on the "responsible parenthood" bill now pending at the House of Representatives, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) executive director Rhodora "Dory" Roy-Raterta shared with the participants something her daughter told her last year.

The 10-year-old girl, the younger of two daughters of the Raterta couple, had been diagnosed with a brain tumor a year ago, almost to the day of her talk. Now considered in remission, the girl, who was with her mother at the affair, reminded her of what she had said at the height of their crisis. "In the midst of our struggle to raise funds for her operation and to keep watch over her health, my daughter remarked: 'Isn't it a good thing, Mama that you have only two children? Maybe if you had more children, you couldn't afford my treatment.'"

That, said Dory, is what gives her comfort even as she and the FPOP find themselves in the middle of a battle to win public opinion support for the proposed legislation, with Rep. Edcel Lagman as main author and recently passed by the House committee on women, headed by Rep. Josefina Joson. Along with the other reproductive health and rights groups, the FPOP is girding for a bruising battle when the bill goes up for debate on the floor. Already, a campaign to scuttle the bill has been launched by Catholic bishops and conservative lay groups.

Lagman himself, in a talk before the FPOP general membership meeting, likened the struggle between supporters and opposers of the bill to the lopsided battle between David and Goliath. He decried the "insidious black propaganda and disinformation campaign launched by groups opposing the measure," despite surveys showing that Filipinos are in favor of planning their families and controlling their fertility.

"Like Goliath who dismissed David as an unworthy opponent," remarked the congressman, "the Catholic Church has unwittingly lost much of its influence by its high-and-mighty attitude towards those who go against the Vatican's antiquated, anti-poor and anti-woman teachings on contraception.

"Like Goliath, the Roman Catholic hierarchy … has placed too much confidence on its influence and power over Filipinos that it continues to threaten legislators who support HB 3773 with humiliating defeat in the next election and has refused to recognize and uphold the reproductive rights of the Catholic faithful whose welfare they are duty-bound to protect."

* * *

INDEED, said Dory, who is a lawyer whose experience has been spent largely in the crafting of policy, HB 3773 is grounded on the obligations of both national and local governments to deliver basic services to constituents, including basic health, reproductive health and family planning.

But in the absence of a national law stating such a responsibility, said Dory, what is bound to happen, as it is indeed happening today, is that the range and scale of services available to communities become a matter of the local government executive's prerogative. Dory cited the case of Manila, where Mayor Lito Atienza in his first term in 2000 issued Executive Order 003, stating that the city "promotes responsible parenthood and upholds natural family planning … while discouraging the use of artificial methods of contraception like condoms, pills, intrauterine devices, surgical sterilization…"

Such a policy, said Dory, has resulted not just in the refusal of city health center personnel to provide even the most basic information (let alone services) on most modern family planning methods; it has also led to the harassment of private clinics run by NGOs in the most impoverished areas of Manila.

HB 3773, if it passes, would address such draconian and undemocratic policies by providing penalties against "any public official at both the national and local levels … who shall prohibit or intentionally restrict the delivery of legal and medically-safe reproductive health care services, including family planning." No wonder the wife of Atienza is reported to have remarked at a forum among health workers in Manila that should the bill pass, "your mayor would be imprisoned!"

* * *

BUT the principle applies even to those who are supportive of family planning, Dory noted. She cited the mayor of a town in Mindanao who, strongly convinced of the need to limit the size of families in his constituency, issued an order that the third and any succeeding child of a couple could no longer be registered in the town, and would thus be deprived of any services the municipal government offers its citizens.

"We don't approve of such measures either," clarified Dory, who said the concept of reproductive health and rights is still anchored on the basic human rights to information, access, services and choice.

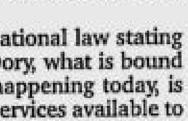
Is HB 3773 really a "two-child policy" bill? The bill does contain a provision on the "ideal family size," adding that "the state shall encourage two children as the ideal family size," though with the caveat that this provision "shall not be mandatory or compulsory and no punitive action may be imposed on couples having more than two children."

Still, the very idea that the state should be involved at all in the business of telling couples how many children they should have is anathema to all who believe in reproductive health and rights. Just as we ask the hierarchy and our self-appointed moral guardians to respect the conscience and free will of couples and women, so too must we ask the more assiduous family planning policymakers to leave the matter of deciding family size to the better judgment of us ordinary folks.

The Kumintang Legacy

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



TAAL is one of the few towns of Luzon that has kept many of its old houses intact and where the old families either still live in them or have had them restored. The Basilica of St. Martin de Tours stands on a bluff and overlooks its warren of narrow streets. It dominates the town and even today impacts on its people. That they care enough that the "ensemble" of the church was marred by the construction of what architect Augusto Villalon described as a third-rate structure of hollow blocks says something about the importance of this house of God for Taaleños. Most of us have just about given up and allow our parish priests (as well as our mayors) to do just about anything they feel like doing to structures that essentially belongs to the people.

But I suppose Taal is different. San Miguel, Bulacan, probably has any number of ancestral homes still intact, but these apparently don't mean as much to the heirs. Basically they're being allowed to crumble away, until one day they'll collapse like the house of Usher and that will be that.

Taal is not just old houses that have survived but also a way of life that is less hurried. You can still buy your *tulingan* in the market stewed in a clay pot and your *baraco* brewed Batangas style (which may be a bit harder; you have to insist).

Taal may not be that easy to get to know. It's actually more somnolent than Vigan, more languorous. It is a place of narrow alleys, dark shadows and the *bahay na bato* with its closed *saguan* doors. You can probably see all of it in a hectic one-day tour, including a boat ride to the famous volcano intermingled with a visit to the market where you can buy embroidered pillow cases and *kimonas* and *barongs*, which is probably what 90 percent of visitors do.

But this weekend offers something different. As part of the celebration of the National Heritage Month of May, this elusive town opens up its heart to guests this weekend with an array of activities. Since its people are deeply religious, the festivities begin with the First Friday Mass at the basilica, followed by the launch of a book of 45 poems by Taal students of all levels, the result of a seminar workshop conducted by Dr. Domingo Landicho. This will be followed by a kite competition (*saranggolahan*) with the theme of "Unity Through Heritage," which is the theme and motto of the Heritage Month celebration. Competing are the different barangays.

Later in the afternoon, after the sun has gone down, the "Konsyerto sa Kiosk" takes place. Reviving a tradition, the restored kiosk in the plaza serves as a venue for the performance of mostly original Pinoy music.

If you missed Friday, there's still Saturday when 14 towns and cities participate in a country fair. They're coming with their floats representing their history, culture and indigenous products: the "Kumintang Legacy" in a nutshell. There will be 35 to 38 booths selling a variety of products and food.

The old Escuela Pia in the plaza, which has found new life as the town's cultural center, exhibits the works of an on-the-spot sketching/painting session from last April, spearheaded by an art group called "Lapis ng Lipa." All works are for sale. Ongoing in the social court (I'm guessing this doubles as the basketball court) are cultural presentations from local schools and NGOs from different towns as well as winners of street dancing competitions.

In the afternoon, the second in a series of "Architectural Stamps" will be launched at the historic home of Gliceria Villavicencio. You can come and buy your first-day cover and you're welcome to try the Taal *empanada* and *puto* cake. I wanted some *chocolate eh* made from the famous Taal *tablea*, but even in the name of authenticity, it may prove a bit too warm for it.

As though these activities weren't enough, there's the cultural night at the social court where well-known Batangueños will perform and present Batangas' history and culture. You can watch the Subli group from Agoncillo and listen to the Tanauan Musical Guild and enjoy a very special treat when excerpts from Ryan Cayabyab's "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay" to open at the Cultural Center in July will be performed.

Sunday continues with a "Heritage Tour on Bike," with enthusiasts coming from San Jose, Calaca, Ibaan, Balayan and Batangas City stopping by historical landmarks until they reach Taal. At 10 a.m., there will be the "Parada ng Kabayo Para sa Kasaysayan" when an assembly of carriages, *tiburins*, *patukes* and horsemen gather to traverse the streets of the town until they reach the plaza. Horsemen may be required to come in costumes of a particular era. After the parade the participants proceed to Lemery for the "Karera ng Tiburin." The festivities end that afternoon with a choral performance by the Dangal ng Batangas Choral Group at the historic Shrine of Caysasay, a group composed of Batangas City government employees.

You really have to take your hat off to the Taal Heritage Foundation, to Ramon Orlina, "Mayora" Fe Cabrera, Ligaya Tankeh and Dindo Montemayor who made all this possible. At this time when our country faces untold hardships, take comfort in that heritage and remember that if we lose that past, we also lose the future.

* * *

Comments to bamblharper@yahoo.com

Hang on

I OWE so much to my mother. More than my life, I owe her what I am today.

She calls me by different names, and not just because she gave me a long name but because she always has this unusual fondness for pet names. Curiously, I've always known it was me whether she was calling "Pitatik," "Tatum" or whatever. She's Mamsi and she has been a most significant person in my life.

YOUNG BLOOD

Therese Pelias

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Twenty-nine years ago, she thought she could no longer have a baby. She already had three kids, all of them boys. She was satisfied with that. But God had other plans. I came into her life, and she couldn't say for sure whether she wanted me or she didn't. She was 33 and had delivered three children by Caesarean section. It was the 1970s and people thought mothers could only have three Caesarean births at most; a fourth would be suicidal. Mama knew that and she knew it well. But I came and she delighted in having yet another life growing within her.

After three sons, she prayed hard and offered a novena to the saint I was named after, St. Therese of Lisieux. Her prayer was answered and so I was born and christened Mary Francis Therese. (They say the person who typed my birth certificate was probably a Visayan who thought "Frances" was the wrong spelling, a mistake we never bothered to correct.)

I was born amid physical pain and emotional anguish. Mama was vomiting during the first trimester of her pregnancy. She lost a lot of weight and shrank to skin and bones. I remember her telling me that relatives started to visit her more frequently. She couldn't understand and she suspected that they probably fear she might die. She was rushed to the hospital several times where dextrose was the only thing that kept both of us alive. And so I was born out of that tremendous and overwhelming love my mother had for me. I guess it was that love more than the tomatoes and *balut* that allowed me to survive the circumstances of my birth.

I was born two months premature and had to be placed in an incubator for two weeks. My father fondly recalls holding my very tiny and fragile body in the taxi on my first trip home. Just like my mother, he was so happy that I was a girl.

Several times, she has given up her own interests for the sake of my brothers and me. She was a teacher, but we always took precedence over her career. She was on her second year of teaching at Maryknoll College High School when she had to resign due to her delicate condition at the time of my conception. When I was in prep, she struck a bargain with another school: either they accept both of us, me as a student and she as a teacher, or else she wouldn't teach at all. She got her way.

Since I was the only girl in the family, she wasn't so sure about leaving me at home. So I trotted beside her from the time I was a featherweight on her lap to the time I had to have my own seat in the jeepney traveling to all the places she'd go.

When we were together, people would ask me, "*Lola mo* (Is she your grandma)?" Or they would ask her, "*'Yan ba apo mo* (Is she your granddaughter)?" This was because her hair was white, something which often worked to our advantage, as men would give up their seats on the bus for us.

I've done a lot of commuting with Mama. Sometimes when I pass by Katipunan or Cubao or Edsa these days, sentimental me would recall snippets of my experiences with Mama. One of the greatest lessons she taught me was to hang on. She always had that loving tone when she uttered those words whenever we'd cross a street or go up an overpass.

But "hanging on" has come to mean more than that to me. With those words, she has taught me that there are times in life when I am not as strong as I think I am and surrendering myself to a greater power was simply recognizing my human frailty. I can almost hear her say those words not only when I cross a street or go up an overpass but in times when I need to be strong.

We don't cross the street together much anymore. I've grown up from the little girl trotting behind Mrs. Pelias in different teachers' rooms of different schools. She retired from teaching when I was in Grade 2 since she couldn't find time enough for her kids and her work. She had to be there for us. She would have been a topnotch veteran teacher by now had she not stopped teaching. But she did—to become our full-time mother.

She and I have become full-time friends. My mother became my best friend. Her white hair didn't mean she was old. It meant she was mature. I guess the maturity my brothers and I exhibit sprang from the way she raised us. Up to now, she has never let pass an opportunity to teach us something. She was an outstanding teacher, with her values, experiences and her faith and her keen view of life as her curriculum.

I guess that she was the reason I myself became a teacher during the first six years of my working life. They say teaching is in my blood, since both sets of my grandparents were teachers themselves. But it was my mother who has showed me best the essence of being a teacher. She has taught me the importance of touching other people's lives by the way she has touched mine. I aspire to be the great woman and maybe the great mother that she is. Her words of encouragement have made me survive life with all its joys and disappointments.

These days, she's a picture of a happy grandmother with my three vivacious nephews. She was terribly happy when I told her that her next grandchild was going to be a girl.

At a time when the meaning of motherhood is lost in feminist causes, I only have to look at Mamsi to realize what it really means. The woman behind everything I have become was destined to be my mother just as I was destined to be her child. She does not say it anymore, but I know her huge bear hugs still mean, "Hang on, Pitatik."

Therese Pelias, 29, was a reading teacher for six years in Xavier School where she now works as a grade school guidance counselor.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

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Lessons from a fallen star

NORA Aunor's best course of action should have been a plea bargain. Putting up a "not guilty" plea was tantamount to imputing upon the US airport authorities the crime of planting evidence, which is common in the Philippines. Calling upon her fans to lend her their support to influence the US court is most inappropriate and futile.

She is not in the Philippines where justice is on the auction block. Fans who genuinely adore her must concede that she is vulnerable to drug abuse and she deserves their sympathy and moral support; but there is nothing they can do to spare her from the operation of US laws.

Celebrities have a responsibility to their fans, primarily to set an example of upright behavior; and when circumstances lead them to infraction of the law, to graciously submit themselves to just punishment.

The whole nation will be sympathetic to Nora Aunor for her artistry and humility of spirit, but it should not be called upon to gloss over a wrongdoing.

The Department of Foreign Affairs should be most circumspect in its moves. There will be the temptation to pander to the sentiments of the "Noranians" asking for the support of the President for her embattled "look alike," never mind the government's image. It will be the height of lunacy if President Macapagal-Arroyo's handlers will as much as think of this.

—E. P. DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

On erring private emission centers

I AM writing to clarify some of the points raised by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan on the alleged inaction of the undersigned on the erring private emission testing centers (PETCs) caught by the team of Environment Secretary Michael Defensor during its "sting operation." (PDI, 4/23/05) May I invite attention to the following:

1. Secretary Defensor and myself held a joint press conference on March 4 to announce the zero-tolerance policy of the PETC monitoring committee, which I head, against all forms of fraudulent emission inspection.

2. We requested Defensor and his team to submit their findings to us for validation, including certificate of emission compliance (CEC) forms issued by these erring PETCs. As provided for in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Clean Air Act and the DENR-DOTC-DTI Joint Administrative Order, the PETC monitoring committee has an established process of covert and overt monitoring where representatives of the Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Trade and Industry and non-government organizations work as a team to catch specific cases of infidelity in the emission inspections. The findings of this team serve as the basis for suspending PETCs or revoking their authorization altogether.

3. The day after our press conference, we dispatched the monitoring teams to immediately monitor the PETCs cited by Defensor's team, as agreed upon with Environment Undersecretary Ramon Paje.

4. Based on the findings of our own monitoring teams and on previous data, 15 of the PETCs in the DENR list have been suspended; the other PETCs will be suspended should our monitoring teams confirm the derogatory findings of the DENR.

5. In the notice of suspension, the erring PETCs were explicitly warned that their authorization will be permanently canceled should they be caught again doing fraudulent emission inspection.

We have also instituted several reforms to deter the use of fake CECs. We are also evaluating the IT service providers of the PETCs to ensure reliable online, real time reporting of inspections (done by the PETCs) to the DOTC/LTO. We are also looking into the possibility of putting digital cameras in PETCs to prevent "non-appearance" and other fraudulent inspection practices.

As an avid reader of Cunanan's column, I believe in her impartiality and integrity in the pursuit of truth and excellence. We hope she will give our side an appropriate space in her future columns.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to set the record straight and informing the general public of our undertakings pursuant to the mandate given to this office under the Clean Air Act.

—RICARDO E. ALFONSO JR.,
undersecretary for land transportation,
Department of Transportation
and Communications,
The Columbia Tower,
Barangay Wack-Wack,
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City

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MAY 10	Peñablanca, Cagayan
MAY 11	Laoag City
MAY 12	Vigan City
MAY 13	Alaminos City
MAY 14	SBMA
MAY 15	Eastwood City, Libis

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ARMM polls declared 'free zone' by Palace

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has decided not to endorse any official candidate for the fifth regional elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Gabriel Claudio, presidential political adviser, said in a statement that the K-4 coalition has declared the Aug. 8 exercise a "free zone." This means that candidates running under the banner of the administration party would be recognized as official candidates.

Claudio, also Lakas senior deputy secretary general, said the decision was aimed at casting aside doubts "that Malacañang is unduly interfering in the polls."

"Our K-4 candidates are all highly qualified. We are leaving the choice to the people of the ARMM so that regional autonomy as embodied in the Organic Act can be achieved," Claudio said.

Claudio's announcement about the elections being a free zone came a day after officials identified with Mayor Zaldy Ampatuan of Shariff Aguak in Maguindanao said he was picked as Lakas candidate for the gubernatorial race.

"As such, he was also given the authority by national Lakas officials to nominate party candidates for vice governor and assemblymen," Norie Unas, Lakas-Maguindanao spokesperson, said.

Unas said it was Claudio and Jose Ma. Rufino, Lakas national executive director, who named Ampatuan as official candidate after a recent national gathering of Lakas officials in Manila.

When asked whether the nomination reflected the President's decision, Unas said: "We interpret it that way."

Earlier, Ms Arroyo formed a selection committee that would recommend to her the possible official candidate.

The committee, headed by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles, listed Ampatuan as its No. 1 choice.

Ampatuan said most of the ARMM provincial governors have offered to help him in the elections.

Vying for governor are five prominent political figures from Lakas and one from LP.

They are: incumbent ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin and Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan, Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, Mayor Zaldy Ampatuan of Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, Regional Legislative Assembly Speaker Hatimil Hassan and former Mayor Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas of Datu Paglas, Maguindanao. Paglas is running under the LP banner.

Claudio said Ms Arroyo was pushing for a covenant for good governance for the automation of the ARMM elections.

"The President is in agreement with the various sectors who believe that a credible and free, honest election must be conducted in the ARMM to make it a showcase of a democratic zone for everyone to appreciate and follow," he said.

Claudio said the covenant for good governance will serve as the K-4 candidates' guidepost in the conduct of the election campaign, and in their actual conduct in public office once elected.

Under the covenant, Claudio said the administration coalition candidates will be obliged to reject the use of force and violence during the campaign but instead focus on issues, programs and platforms of government.

ARMM elections have always been violent. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lawyers sue cult to get custody of Baguio girl

BAGUIO CITY—The Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) and the party-list group Gabriela are suing to recover a teenager from a Davao-based church, claiming that its founder has brainwashed the girl and the church's other underaged devotees.

The human rights lawyers represent Erlinda Rillon, the girl's mother, who complained before the city council in February about the alleged detention of her 19-year-old daughter Arlene by church leaders based in Mindanao.

In their May 5 petition for habeas corpus, FLAG is enjoining Apollo Quiboloy, founder and chair of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Name Above Every Other Name, Inc., to release Arlene from his custody and to return her to her mother.

This is the second habeas corpus suit filed by Rillon against Quiboloy and the Kingdom from Baguio.

Judge Clarence Villanueva of the regional trial court here dismissed the first petition on a technicality because Arlene was no longer a minor when it was filed.

Arlene issued Villanueva an affidavit indicating her decision to stay with Quiboloy's church in Mindanao. But she left home in 2004 when she was still 18 years old, to join a Kingdom-sponsored youth camp.

Arlene surfaced over ACQ-TV Q channel, a cable television station owned by Quiboloy—first to declare her intention to join the ministry in Davao on May 9, 2004, and again in February this year, to denounce an INQUIRER report about her detention.

But FLAG lawyer Richard Cariño, a former city councilor, and Gabriela lawyers Alexander Bangsoy and Cheryl Daytec-Yangot, now contend that Arlene "has been programmed by [the church] and her mind is being controlled by... Quiboloy."

"Even if Arlene is no longer a minor, she is no longer capable of making decisions which are the product of her consent as her will has been subverted. She has been programmed to follow the commands of the Kingdom's leaders," the petition said.

The lawyers said they will present to the court several witnesses, "who can establish that Arlene is being held against her will."

One witness, the petition said, will testify "that Arlene was [allegedly] forced to join the ministry on a full-time basis," and that she reportedly now handles the cleaning of Quiboloy's quarters.

The lawyers referred to a young man, "who escaped from the Kingdom... and who has confirmed that there are several young people being detained... with the use of mind control."

"Quiboloy and members of the Kingdom use the Bible and select verses to keep the young people under their influence to 'deny yourselves for God's kingdom.'" *Vincent Cabreza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army files rebellion raps vs 3 activists in Quezon

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two days after they were seized in Calauag, Quezon, three female members of a militant urban poor organization who were earlier reported abducted by unidentified armed men found themselves facing charges of rebellion.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police chief, identified those charged with rebellion at the Lopez Municipal Trial Court as Leng Jucutan, Tess Esguerra and Sherlita Leocario.

The three were all members of the Left-leaning group Kadamay-Southern Tagalog.

Jucutan, 31, was the group's secretary general.

He said the three were arrested by the Army's 76th Infantry Battalion during a military operation in Barangay Quinalin Ilaya on Tuesday.

But an earlier report from the Quezon police said Jucutan's group, with four men, were abducted by unidentified armed men wearing fatigues.

Jucutan's four male companions were identified as barangay councilor Virgilio Noel, Sangguiang Kabataan chair Elmer Ongaria, Wilbert Capistrano and his brother Wifredo.

They were later released, a police report said.

But a day after, the police were informed that the group was just invited for questioning by the 76th IB led by 2nd Lt. Damaso Enano and 2nd Lt. Mark Anthony Ruby.

He said recovered from Jucutan were communist documents containing plans to assassinate military and police officers, P12,600 in cash and a live ammunition for an M-203 rifle.

But Luz Baculo, secretary general of Kilusang Mayo Uno-Southern Tagalog, dismissed the military's allegations that the three were in the area to collect revolutionary taxes for the New People's Army.

"These people were members of a legal people's organization," Baculo said.

In Lucena City, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Southern Luzon Command chief, said the activists were arrested on suspicion they were NPA rebels.

"The reports from some groups that their members were abducted were malicious and only intended to put the military in bad light," Cabuay told the INQUIRER.

"The suspects were part of the fleeing group of rebels. They broke away from the main group to escape arrest but the people tipped us of their presence. Their arrest was part of a legitimate pursuit operation," he said.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the arrests were a "terrorist retaliation" for the losses the military suffered last week.

He said 11 soldiers under the 201st Infantry Brigade were killed on April 24 in a clash with the NPA in Sitio Villaminda, Barangay Sto Niño-Ilaya, Lopez.

Broso, however, belied Rosal's claims as "untrue and mere propaganda rhetoric."

In San Miguel, Bulacan, 44 farmers were freed on Thursday night, almost 12 hours after they were forcibly taken by Army soldiers on suspicion that they were communist rebels or sympathizers.

Senior Supt. Benedict Michael Fokno, Bulacan police director, said Gov. Josefina de la Cruz directed him to facilitate the immediate release of the farmers, who were taken by the Army's 702nd Command Brigade based in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, on Thursday morning.

Thirty-three men, mostly farmers, were taken from Barangay Sta. Ines while 11 others in Barangay Masalipit.

Fokno said soldiers told him they held the farmers for questioning when they went to their villages at 6 a.m.

Army soldiers refused to talk to reporters. They said they were just following orders from Lt. Col. Noel Clement, commander of the 76th Infantry Battalion in Camp Tecson here.

The villagers said the farmers were questioned about their work, background and involvement with the NPA.

Mayor Edmundo Buencamino, who reported the incident to De la Cruz, assailed the military for violating the farmers' rights.

Human rights group Karapatan said Bernie Santos of Barangay Balaong was still missing. Buencamino confirmed that Santos has yet to be found.

No one was hurt but 66-year-old Patricio Doloroso, who saw his neighbors being dragged by the soldiers, suffered a heart attack and died. *Marlon Ramos, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

3 councilors face raps for forged measure

COTABATO CITY—For coming up with a spurious Sangguniang Bayan resolution, three councilors of Pagalungan town in Maguindanao face criminal and administrative charges.

Pagalungan Vice Mayor Norodin Matalam said the three councilors crafted a resolution that seeks the establishment of a new town from at least 15 villages of Pagalungan, and then forged the signatures of their colleagues to make it appear the proposal had been approved.

When the forgery was discovered, Matalam said the SB, which he chairs, immediately passed a "counter resolution denying and giving no force and effect to the spurious and falsified SB resolution."

He said they were now preparing charges against councilors Simeon Andoy, Macabpong Matalam and Mohamad Andoy, who is also president of the Association of Barangay Chairs (ABC) of Pagalungan.

Matalam said they were surprised when they found out about the resolution because the SB had not deliberated on the issue.

"Therefore the questionable resolution was malicious and deceitful," he said.

At least five village officials said they were pressured into endorsing the resolution.

Mustapha Mamasabulod, Damalasak barangay chair, said two of the accused councilors came to the village hurriedly asking for his "official signature" over "routinary papers," which he failed to read.

The four other village officials also made the same claim, saying they were hoodwinked into signing documents.

Matalam said before a new town could be created, the criteria laid out by the Local Government Code concerning area, population, income, among others, should be met. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SNAKE MEN
Vendors of snake skin and parts attract a crowd in downtown Dagupan City.

Dagupan City daily writes 30

DAGUPAN CITY—After 10 years of dishing out news everyday to Pangasinenses, SunStar Pangasinan Daily stopped publication on April 30, a victim of the "mournful state of the press industry" in this country, its first editor said.

"You either die of poverty or from an assassin's bullet. Government and press militancy should talk and save the industry," said Jun Velasco, who served as editor for a month in 1995.

Velasco said he was saddened by the death of the paper which he helped during its infancy.

The only daily in the province started its operations in 1995 and barely struggled to survive amid a "market which seemed not be ready for this kind of service," Rafael Baraan, who used to be the daily's general manager, said.

The newspaper is owned by SunStar Pangasinan Inc. It is a subsidiary of SunStar Publications which publishes other daily newspapers in other provinces with local partners.

Philip Soria, the general manager before the paper closed shop, said he received a letter dated March 24 from the SunStar's board informing him of the closure on April 30.

The reason given was that the paper was losing money, Soria said, adding that the staff (two editorial and 13 administrative personnel and a printing staff) will be given separation pay.

"We had problems but we were trying to keep the paper alive. The figures speak. We already had a color printing press when before we used to have it printed outside. We had expanded. But the management has decided to close the paper," Soria said.

Baraan said the paper tried to "hang on as long as possible" but the owners might have found it was no longer viable to continue publishing it.

"It pains the owners to close this noble venture but they could not afford to lose so much. Pangasinan is not ready for a local daily paper," he said.

He said the account executives had a hard time getting advertisements for the daily. "Besides; there are so many local papers in Pangasinan," he said.

In 10 years of its operations, the SunStar Pangasinan had at least eight editors: Velasco, Rodolfo Rivera, Abe Belena, Jimmy Laking, Nonette Bennet, Jose Bautista, Rhee Hortaleza, Bong Otadoy and Fred Macaraeg. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Nemesio de la Cruz Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Commencement Speaker:
Vice President Noli de Castro

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President, Republic of the Philippines

Whichever road you travel, ask yourselves the question – What will give me the greatest return and the greatest reward? As a broadcaster and later on as Senator and Vice President, the rewards of public service have always challenged me and made me a better person.

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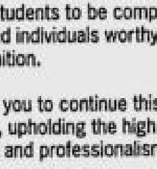
DR. AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V
Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System



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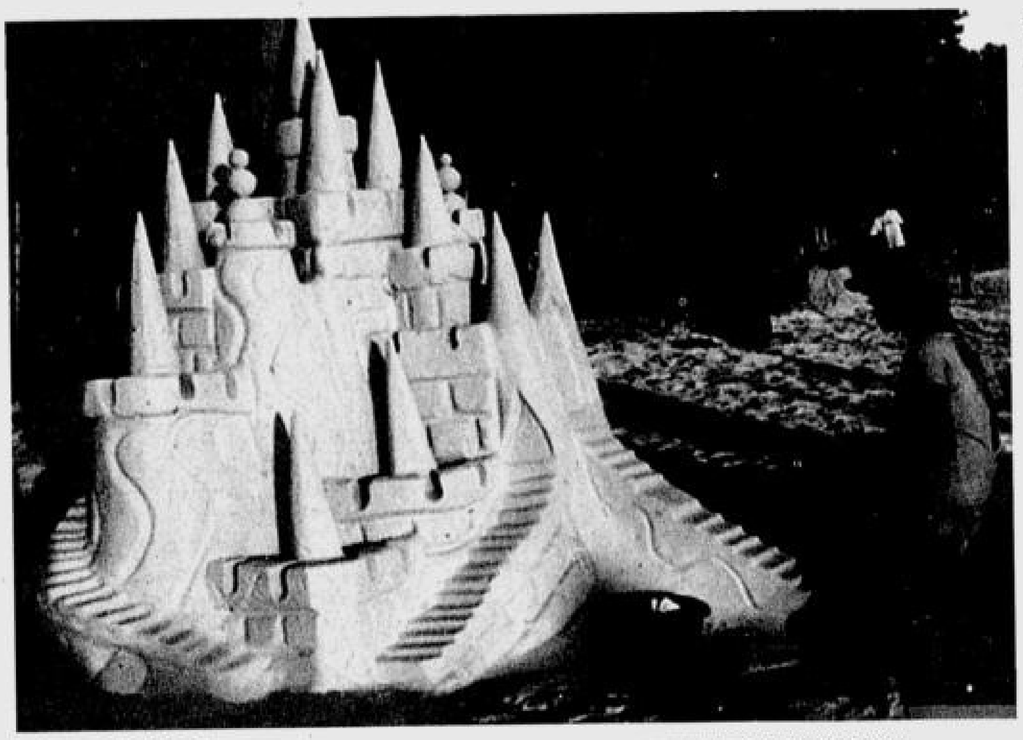
Gloria vows more jobs for unemployed in C. Luzon



SAND DREAMS NESTOR BURGOS JR./PDI VISAYAS BUREAU
Children enjoy the joys of building sand castles on Boracay Island, famed for its white sand beaches.

LIMAY, Bataan—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday vowed to create more jobs for the increasing number of the country's unemployed as she inaugurated the P5.4-billion gas oil hydrotreater (GOHT) and the light virgin naptha isomerization (Isom) unit of Petron's Bataan refinery here.

The President said the best solution to unemployment in the country is to create more jobs and at the same time improve the governance and do away with corruption in government.

The President toured the facilities of Petron Bataan refinery in the 260-hectare compound of the former Bataan Refinery Corp. with Petron officials.

Nicasio Alcantara, Petron Corp. chair, said the national oil refinery firm has always endeavored to meet environmental standards set by the government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Inaugurated were Petron's twin facilities—a 22,000-barrel per day (bpd) gas-oil hydrotreater and a 10,000-bpd light virgin naptha isomerization unit.

The facilities were part of a $100-million new investment of Petron. The GOHT reduces sulfur content in diesel while the Isom enables the production of high-octane gasoline within the Clean Air Act prescribed limits on aromatics and benzene.

Ms Arroyo lauded Bataan officials, led by Gov. Enrique Garcia and Representatives Antonino Roman and Albert Garcia, for supporting the national government's 10-point agenda for economic recovery by establishing job opportunities for the unemployed.

Governor Garcia mentioned the establishment of San Miguel Corp.'s animal feed factory in Mariveles town, just outside the Bataan Economic Zone.

The new firm, he said, will give jobs to residents. He also cited the entry of Ayala Land, a leading land developer, which is now putting up a multimillion-peso leisure resort in Morong town, formerly the site of a Vietnamese refugee center.

Later in the day, the President inaugurated the P165-million Atrium building of the Cyber City Teleservices, Ltd., the biggest call center firm in Central Luzon, in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Ms Arroyo also toured the factory of the Yokohama Tire Philippines, Inc., which is building a P5.8-billion expansion project that aims to increase its production capacity from 9,000 tires to 20,000 tires per day by September next year. *Greg Refraccion and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Dead fish floating

BACOLOD CITY—Thousands of dead fish were discovered floating off the shore of the Bacolod Real Estate and Development Co. Port No. 1 at the Bacolod Reclamation Area in Bacolod City early Wednesday morning. Bacolod's senior aquaculturist Raquel Sadua, however, said there was no cause for alarm since the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources believed that it was not a fish kill. If the incident were a fish kill, the entire coastal areas would have been affected, she said. The dead fish were instead concentrated in one area, indicating that these could have been dumped in the middle of the sea by fishing trawls, since they appear to be already spoiled, and the sea current must have swept them to the shoreline, Sadua said.
Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

3 die, 19 hurt in mishap

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three persons died while 19 others were injured when the jeep they were riding in plunged into a 10-meter-deep ravine in Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas, on May 4. Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police director, said the fatalities, Linda Acar, Renato Gonzales and Anacleta Jaro, all residents of Dasmariñas, Cavite, had come from Cavite and were on their way to a funeral wake in Batangas when the accident happened at around 10:30 a.m. He said the driver of the jeep lost control of the wheels in a sharp curve along the provincial road in Barangay Lumang Lipa. The jeep fell into two vacant houses below the ravine. Most of the victims suffered serious head injuries and bruises in the bodies.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Man hangs self

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Poverty drove a 40-year-old man to hang himself on Tuesday morning. Armando Baque, a resident of Silway 8 in nearby Polomolok town, South Cotabato, had been going around for days asking for help from his relatives and friends in the area. He was an asparagus plantation worker but was told to stop working since the onset of the dry spell. On Monday, Baque went to Barangay San Jose here, about 25 km away from Polomolok, to borrow rice and money from his relatives. He went home empty-handed. That night, he and his family went to bed hungry. When his wife woke up early morning Tuesday, he found her husband's body hanging inside their house. Police said Baque turned desperate when he could not get any help from his friends and relatives.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Murder suspect nabbed

COTABATO CITY—A suspect in the murder of at least two prominent figures here this year was arrested while undergoing treatment for bullet wounds at the government-run Cotabato Regional and Medical Center. Dante Macasampang, a resident of Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat, was tagged as the killer of businessman Zani Buxani on March 21 and Eleazar Sambra, director of the Department of Transportation and Communication in Central Mindanao, on April 7, according to Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, commander of police precinct No. 4. Obatay said Macasampang, who was arrested Monday, is an active member of a gun-for-hire group operating in Central Mindanao. He is also one of the suspects in the disappearance of businessman Benny Kotah.
Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Masbate reunion

GRADUATES of the Masbate High School Class 1955 will hold its Golden Jubilee Homecoming on May 14-15 at the Masbate National Comprehensive High School Campus, Masbate City. For details, contact Lucas Zurbito, Jr. at 09282760772 or Pio Fortuno at 9274122.

5 men kill employee

BASISTA, Pangasinan—Five motorcycle-riding men shot and killed an employee of a lending company and wounded his companion as they took more than P100,000 cash from them in Barangay Dumpay here on Thursday. Killed was Ramon Macaalay, 43, driver of a Toyota Revo that was attacked by the armed men. Wounded was George Brian Quinto, 25. Police said the victims, both employees of Quedan Corp. based in Alaminos City, had collected money from their clients here when the armed men waylaid them.
Eric Montoya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Visayas braces for tuition hike

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—At least 22 colleges and universities in Central Visayas will increase their tuition by up to 20 percent in the coming school year.

Cebu has the most schools that will raise tuition, with 13 colleges and universities, followed by Negros Oriental (5) and Bohol (4).

Dante Cabunilas, coordinator for tuition increases at the Commission on Higher Education in Central Visayas (CHEd 7), said the commission had already given the go signal for these schools to implement the increase by June after they have complied with the requirements and guidelines set by CHEd.

In Cebu, South Western University in Cebu City and the Cebu Roosevelt Memorial College in Bogo town will raise tuition by 15 percent.

The University of the Visayas (UV) main campus along Colon Street in Cebu City has asked for a 10-percent tuition hike for their medical courses, while UV-Mandaue will implement a 6.4-percent increase and UV-Toledo City asked for a 10-percent increase.

Other Cebu schools that will raise tuition by 10 percent are Velez College, University of Southern Philippines, North Eastern Cebu Colleges in Danao City, College of Technological Sciences, and the Cebu Aeronautical Technical School.

The Cebu Institute of Technology will implement a 9-percent tuition hike; the Cebu Doctors College, 8 percent; and the lowest, the St. Theresa's College, 3 percent.

In Bohol, the Trinidad Municipal College in Trinidad town would implement a 15-percent tuition hike, followed by the University of Bohol in Tagbilaran and Blessed Trinity College in Talibon town, which would raise fees by 10 percent, and Mater Dei College in Tubigon, 8.16 percent.

In Negros Oriental, the St. Francis College in Guihulngan will collect the biggest tuition increase at 20 percent. The Villaflores College in Tanjay will increase tuition by 15 percent, followed by the Diaz College in Tanjay (10 percent), St. Joseph College in Canlaon City (9.2 percent) and Foundation University in Dumaguete City (5.4 percent).

Cabunilas said these schools have sent to CHEd their "letter of intent to raise tuition" in January.

Landmine victim gets US Army help

JOLO, Sulu—The United States military facilitated the medical evacuation of a 37-year-old farmer here, who has been suffering from gangrene following a landmine explosion.

Capt. Abe Sarajan, spokesperson of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said the farmer, whom he did not identify, was walking with his daughter and another companion on Pata Island on April 27 when he stepped on a landmine.

The farmer's daughter and the other victim died from the explosion while he suffered a severely damaged leg.

He was rushed to the Sulu provincial hospital but doctors said he should be brought to Zamboanga.

But transporting the farmer proved to be a big problem.

There was simply no available means because at the time the advise was issued, there was no longer any flights available for Zamboanga and ferry trips had been canceled.

Sarajan said it was the International Red Cross which informed them of the situation.

On Thursday, the farmer was airlifted by US soldiers to the Zamboanga Medical Center where his legs had to be amputated.

"The US military is providing this farmer from Pata with medical transport to Zamboanga because it is the right thing to do. Take care of others who are in need," said Lt. Col. Greg Wilson, commander of the US contingent in Jolo for the assessment.

US soldiers have come to war-torn areas in the province to assess the need for humanitarian support and civil projects. *Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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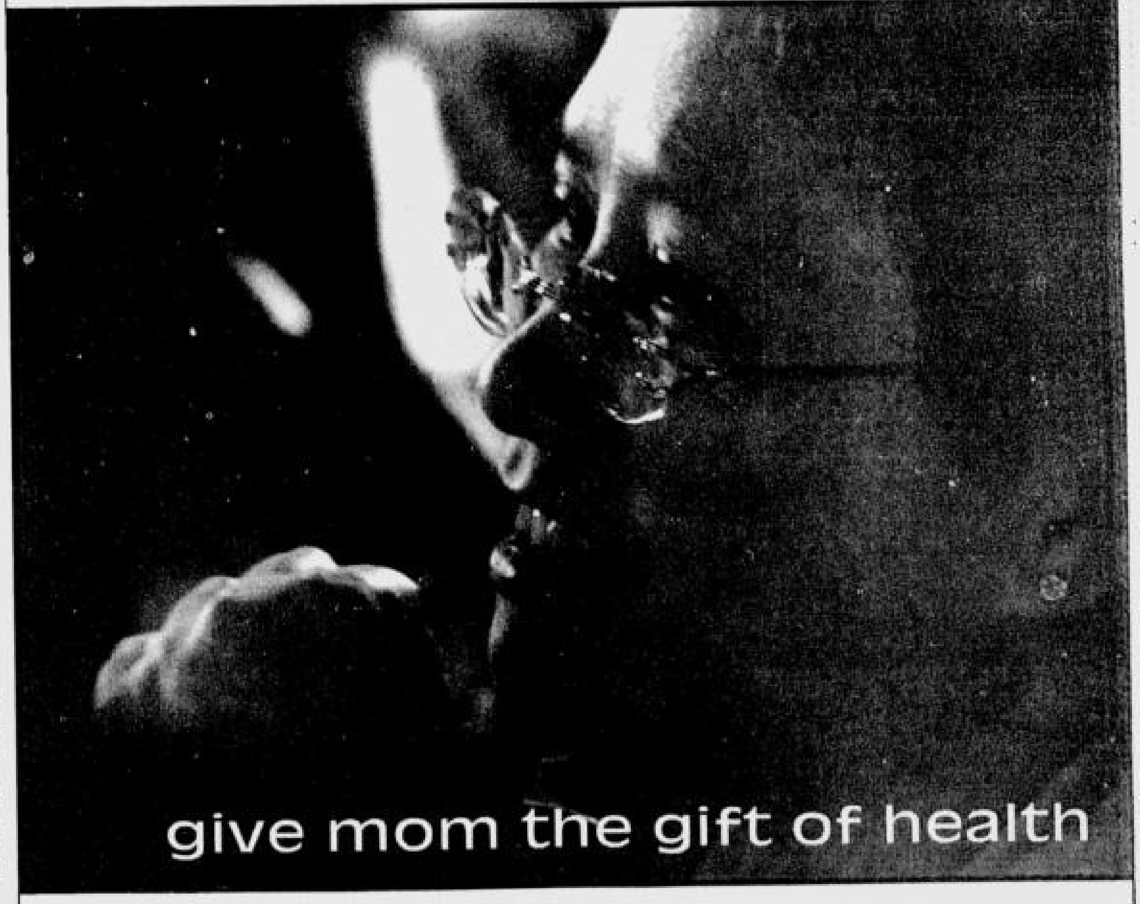
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'Dolce Vita' killings haunt Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Boracay Island, Aklan

THERE is hardly any talk about the killings in Boracay a year ago as the resort island continues to enjoy an upswing in tourist arrivals.

But business owners and residents want the case to be solved, said Karen Reina, president of the Boracay Chamber of Commerce and Industry. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

"The killings continue to haunt us because it's at the back of our minds," said Nenette Graf, public information officer of Boracay Foundation Inc.

The smell of coffee, toasted bread and butter drives Josephine Forstenhausler to tears.

These "small things" still remind her of her husband Anton, who was stabbed dead along with three others a year ago in the couple's dream house they called the "Dolce Vita" (Sweet Life) in Boracay.

Hurting widow

"It still hurts so much because the simplest things make me remember our most precious moments together," said Josephine, 42, an orthodontist, who married Anton in 1996.

She remains angry why Anton, a 68-year-old German, was taken away from her "when he was just starting to enjoy the fruit of his life's work."

But she says she is trying to understand the tragedy as God's will, even as she seeks justice for his death.

Anton, his guests—Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite and Swiss-born vineyard owner Manfred Schoeni, one of the leading art and antique dealers in Hong Kong—and his Filipina maid Erma Sarmiento were found dead on May 3 in separate rooms of the mansion in Mt. Luho in Balabag village on the island resort.

According to investigators, the victims, who bore multiple stab wounds, were killed between the night of May 1 and the morning after.

ANTON Forstenhausler (rightmost) and Manfred Schoeni (second from left) with friends in an undated photo taken in South Africa when Forstenhausler visited Schoeni's vineyard.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Islanders and expatriates were shocked by the killings which they considered the worst crime to have happened in their paradise.

Police said the killings might have resulted from a botched robbery. Twenty items belonging to Cowperthwaite were missing, including a Giorgio Armani leather belt, electronic organizer, Nokia mobile phone, wallet and credit cards. Also missing were 10 items owned by Schoeni, including a recorder, digital camera, wallet, mobile phone and HK$6,000 cash.

Police questioned 25 workers, who were hired to redo the mansion, but they were released for lack of evidence.

The Boracay community was jolted anew when police pinned the killings on Anton's German friend, Uwe Friesl, and Chito Catalogo, one of the construction workers.

On Jan. 5, the provincial prosecutor's office charged Friesl and three unidentified suspects with four counts of murder. It dropped the robbery charge and the complaint against Catalogo.

Friesl, 38, a mechanic, was indicted on the basis of footprint specimens taken near the lavatory on the second floor of the mansion where the bodies of the three foreigners were found. The specimens matched those of Friesl.

Footprints

The prime suspect denied involvement in the killings, saying his footprints were found in the crime scene because the police had asked him to help identify the bodies shortly after they were found.

Friesl said he could not have hurt Anton because he considered his fellow German a friend. He appealed his indictment, but this was denied by the prosecutor's office.

Police lost track of Friesl, who left the island before they could arrest him.

When reached by the INQUIRER in February through his mobile phone, Friesl said he was "not hiding or running away."

He said he was "very disappointed" at being dragged into the case. "I helped the police in the investigation and provided them with all the information I knew, and they accused me of murdering my friend Anton," he said.

Missing

Despite his assurance that he will face the charges, Friesl has disappeared. Even his lawyer, Jaime Ma. Flores II, could not reach him.

He said he and his client had agreed to file a petition for review if Friesl's indictment would be upheld by the prosecutor's office. But the lawyer said the deadline for filing the petition lapsed last month.

He insisted that Friesl was innocent, saying there was no evidence that the German was, in any way, involved in the crime.

"Had the police and the prosecution worked properly, we would be trying the real culprits now," said Flores.

Mirjam Forstenhausler-Sheldon, Anton's daughter by his former wife Lilo, is frustrated with the inability of the police to arrest Friesl.

"I am appalled at how the police have treated the murders, by the lack of attempt to locate Friesl. It is incomprehensible that the police will not accept help from the German authorities with the investigation which has been in shambles from the beginning," Mirjam, who is based in London, said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

Senior Supt. Jose Jorge Corpuz, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group for Western Visayas, said arrest teams have been sent to many areas, including Mindoro, Zambales and places where German expatriates are known to stay, he said. "We will arrest him. But it is difficult to find someone who is hiding."

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It is not fair that the hard earned loan repayments of the urban poor are used for NHMFC's salaries, bonuses, etc. instead of providing new CMP loans for urban poor communities.

We wait for the fulfillment of your commitment.

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Slain newsman's kin want 2 top cops out of probe

From page A1

was launched a day before he was shot.

But Yebes said he had no axe to grind against Cantoneros even if the latter had "attacked" him on air.

He said that he did not feel threatened by Cantoneros' role in the recall movement, and that he was even offering a reward of P50,000 for anyone who could provide vital information on the murder of the broadcaster.

Cloud of partiality

Verduguez said Adriatico and Hizon had themselves been subjects of criticism from Cantoneros for their alleged failure to curb illegal gambling in Zamboanga del Norte and in Dipolog.

"It is better that they be taken out of the picture, because whatever they do would be subjected to speculation. This is also to remove them from any cloud of partiality in the investigation," the lawyer said.

But Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, chief of the Western Mindanao Area Police Office, said the family's call was "premature" and its fear unfounded.

"There is no iota of evidence so far that can implicate the mayor of Dipolog and the governor of Zamboanga del Norte. There is no person categorized as suspect at this time," Querol said.

No witnesses yet

Jett Opillac, station manager of dxAA-FM, said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group had identified several witnesses who had yet to submit formal statements to the task force.

But Querol said: "We have a scarcity of evidence and no witnesses." Thus, he said, the conduct of the investigation was an "uphill climb."

"We don't have any route leading to anybody's doorstep," was Querol's quick reply to speculation that several personalities were being considered as suspects.

Adriatico had earlier said at least three "influential" people might have been behind the murder.

Querol said the angle being pursued in the investigation remained work-related—"[Cantoneros'] being a media man who issued hard-hitting commentaries."

"Not many were happy with [his comments] and the way he lambasted [people]," Querol said.

According to Querol, the task force has no deadline for its work because the investigation should proceed in a "thorough and deliberate" manner.

UN intervention

"We will work on the basis of what is available," he said. "I therefore call on witnesses to come out and help the police. Don't leave the police in the cold."

In Manila, Carlos Conde, secretary general of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, told reporters that the NUJP was coordinating with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to seek the intervention of the United Nations.

Conde said they would request the UN to send a *rapporteur* who would investigate the killing of Filipino journalists and make the necessary recommendations to the international body.

He said the killings could be considered a human rights issue, aside from an issue concerning freedom of the press.

"We should take the government to account for these murders. An investigation by the UN will shame this government before the international community," Conde said.

Shaming system

The Philippines is a signatory to international documents committed to the protection of human rights, particularly the UN Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has also acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing said the agency would submit a report on the killings to the UN International Committee on Human Rights.

She said she would also recommend to the UN High Commission on Human Rights that a *rapporteur* be sent to the country.

"The shaming system in the international community is very powerful. I do not wish for an outside force to come to the country, but we are part of an international community. It seems there is a failure of justice here," Quisumbing said at a media dialogue on the killing of journalists.

She also confirmed that a "culture of impunity" was now existing in the country.

"A culture of impunity exists if the government does not respond to reports of human rights violations against its citizens and if there is a failure of justice. There is a culture of impunity in the Philippines because authorities are not responding to the killing [of journalists]," Quisumbing said. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

PROBERS inspect the service motorcycle used by Klein Cantoneros when he was shot last Wednesday in Dipolog City. PHOTO COURTESY OF MINDANAO OBSERVER/ DENNIS BAGUIO MINDANAO OBSERVER

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PNP open to arming journalists

By Luige A. del Puerto
and Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is open to the idea of arming journalists but the threat to their lives must be proven, PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said yesterday.

"Not all journalists who have licensed guns face threats. So they should not be given a PTC [permit to carry]," Bataoil said on the phone. "But if a journalist who is a licensed gun owner is facing a threat, that threat must first be validated by the police."

Only then can he/she be given a PTC, he said.

Bataoil was responding to the suggestion aired by a group calling itself the Association of Armed Journalists of the Philippines to allow members of the media to carry guns.

In a statement, the group said journalists should not "wait for assassins to arrive at our doorstep and shoot us in the head."

Bataoil said journalists whose lives were being threatened could immediately seek security from the PNP. Under the law, civilians asking for police security are given protection, he said.

But the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said arming journalists was not the solution to the spate of media killings.

"The idea of arming journalists is a danger to journalists and journalism as a whole. It constitutes open warfare and we discourage that," said NUJP secretary general Carlos Conde.

But Conde acknowledged that many journalists already had firearms. He estimated that around 30 percent of journalists were bringing their guns to work.

CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing agreed with Conde, saying arming journalists would "make the situation worse."

"It is as if we are already giving up on the situation and creating instead another culture of violence and lawlessness. Why stop with journalists? [Why not] arm everyone else?" she said.

Quisumbing added that the idea "will not work and will not prevent the killings. It will instead increase the impunity with which journalists are killed because there is no rule of law."

Since 1986, 67 journalists have been killed. Conde said that of the 67 cases, only two had reached the point where the perpetrators were prosecuted.

GMA order illegal, says Señeres

From page A1

in destabilizing her administration.

The NLRC chair revealed that he had contemplated quitting his post but the support of many leaders of big labor and employers groups made him reconsider.

"They told me not to quit because there's no reason to, so I had second thoughts. I appreciate that they still trust me," he said.

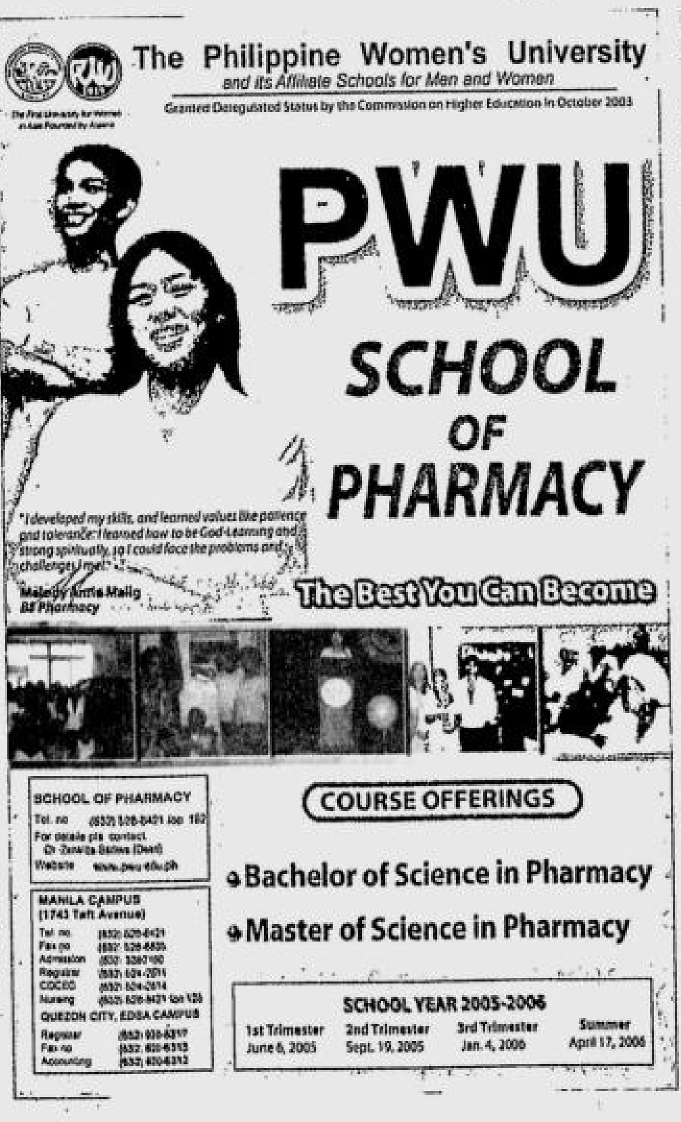
Señeres earlier denied allegations, saying they were baseless and the product of "a creative mind." He added that he was prepared to explain his side in the controversy, either verbally or in writing, if the President so desired.

The labor official said he welcomed Ms Arroyo's decision that Sto. Tomas should have a greater say on how the NLRC should be run administratively. He said the commission had always gratefully accepted Sto. Tomas' help and had followed her suggestions on how to speed up the resolution of thousands of pending labor cases.

However, Señeres said, the President's order was illegal because Article 213 of the Labor Code clearly stated that only he, assisted by the commission's executive director, had the sole administrative supervision of the NLRC, its regional branches, and all personnel, including labor arbiters.

The NLRC chair may have obtained the unwitting support of the militant, often anti-government groups Migrante and Kilusang Mayo Uno, which said DOLE's takeover of the NLRC and the row between Sto. Tomas and Señeres would not be beneficial to both local and overseas Filipino workers.

Sto. Tomas yesterday confirmed that President Macapagal-Arroyo made mention of Señeres' alleged destabilization plot against her administration when she met with labor leaders to discuss the 10-point agenda for Labor Day. *With Christine O. Avendaño*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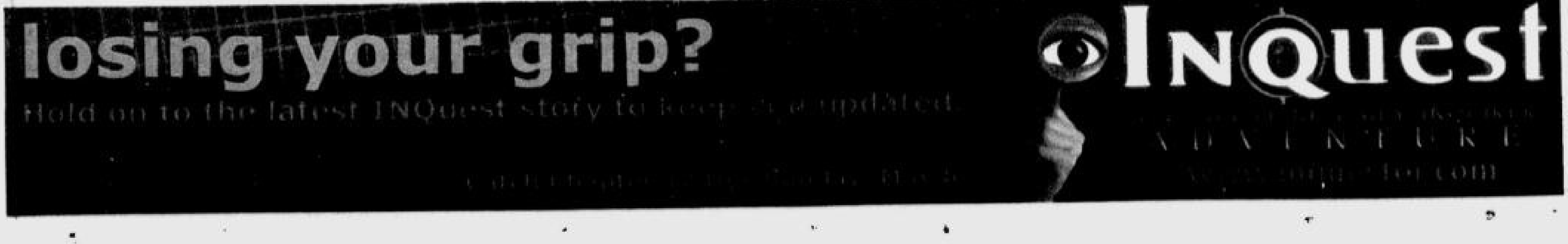
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Neda wants ₱1.20 fare hike for jeepneys

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said yesterday the minimum fare for jeepneys should be increased by only P1.20.

A higher fare adjustment, the agency said, would worsen inflation.

Jeepney groups are asking for an increase of P2.50 for the first four kilometers plus 25 centavos for every additional kilometer. This would raise the minimum fare to P8, and the per kilometer rate to P1.25.

Economic Planning Secretary and Neda Director General Romulo Neri said that based on the agency's computation, the reasonable fare hike based on fuel price increase should only be 5-8 centavos per kilometer.

The higher cost of spare parts would add about 22 centavos per kilometer, based on estimates of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

"Thus, total fare hike should not exceed P0.30 per kilometer or P1.20 for the first four kilometers. If the transport fare hike will be managed prudently, wage increases will be tempered," Neri said.

The LTFRB said its fare hike decision would be out soon.

LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said the board would likely approve a different rate for Metro Manila and nearby areas and another for the provinces.

SMALL COMFORT
No wading pool and seaside swim, but a pail of water for this Quezon City toddler who is given a refreshing bath by his mother. JOAN BONDOC

Woman dies after breast job

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A PROCEDURE that was supposed to enhance her looks proved to be fatal for a 28-year-old woman on Thursday night.

Gleceria Tan, an entertainer, died a day after she was rushed to the hospital after she suffered complications while undergoing a breast enhancement procedure in a Makati City cosmetic clinic.

"The victim submitted herself to the procedure at 5 p.m. on Wednesday," said PO2 Jason David, Makati City Police Department homicide investigator. "One hour later, she had difficulty breathing. In a short while, she became unconscious."

David said Tan had spent Tuesday night at Wally's Facial Center located at Unit 701, Emilia Building on Batangas Street, Barangay San Isidro, Makati City.

She had been scheduled for a second silicone gel breast enhancement injection in the same clinic on the following day. Gleceria had undergone the same procedure last year.

Around 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Alma Achivida, a "beauty consultant" at the clinic, proceeded to inject silicone gel into both of Tan's breasts, after she had sedated the victim, said David. The procedure cost Tan P60,000.

An hour later, while the bust-boosting gel had yet to settle, Tan started "gasping for breath," before she passed out, said David. Achivida and an assistant rushed the victim to the Makati Medical Center, where doctors doubted Tan's chances of survival, according to the investigator.

On Thursday night, the victim died at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit said David, and was brought to the Veronica Funeral Parlor in Pasay City for an autopsy.

Even before the victim died, the police had invited Achivida to get her account of Tan's breast enhancement procedure, and how the victim experienced difficulty in breathing before she became unconscious.

The police said they could not hold anybody liable for Tan's death until the autopsy shows what really killed her.

Autopsy results awaited

"We are not sure whether it was the silicone gel injection or an overdose of anesthesia that killed her. We will know once we get the autopsy results which may take a week," said David.

He added that a criminal case could not be filed against anybody as of yet, until the police get enough evidence that the case was not one involving a natural death. The investigator said Tan's relatives had told him that the victim was in perfect health before her death, and that she had never suffered from a respiratory or heart disease.

David said Achivida's clinic had offered only beauty consultancy services, adding that they would check if the person who had performed the procedure was licensed to do so.

'Viaduct repair can cost only 10% of budget'

By Fran Katigbak

IT CAN be done with just P70 million.

Retired engineer Pedro Taningco said the Alabang viaduct could be rehabilitated at a fraction of the estimated P600-P700-million budget. A retired consulting structural engineer of Filipinas Dravo Corp., Taningco was involved in the construction of complex highway bridges like the first bridge across the Mactan Channel.

In a letter to members of media, he said structural integrity could be extended to 50 more years using light tools and equipment, without closing traffic above and below the viaduct. He explained the plan in January to a Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) executive who had invited him to be a consultant in the rehabilitation project.

Taningco's proposal, however, was not discussed in a forum yesterday at the Alabang Town Center. "We will give our views on the proposal after reviewing it, but the discussion should be reserved for another forum," said panelist Arthur Aguilar, PNCC chair and CEO.

Aguilar said he only saw Taningco's proposal letter at the forum. "We (project administrators) would not turn down the chance to study a cheaper alternative," he added.

Aguilar, general manager of the National Development Co. (NDC), explained rehabilitation was an absolute necessity because of safety issues and because the viaduct served as a channel for businesses. A seed fund of P300 million would be provided by the NDC for viaduct repairs.

Walk the dog for a cause in Manila tomorrow

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THIS CITY is going to the dogs—in a good way, that is.

Thousands of canine lovers and their pets are expected to converge at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Manila at 5 a.m. tomorrow in a bid to break the world record for the largest dog walk.

Philippine Canine Club Inc. (PCCI) president Byron San Pedro said they are targeting around 3,000 participants in Manila alone and 5,000 participants nationwide.

The nationwide "Dog Walk for a Cause (Luv ko c Bantay)," will try to break the world record set by the Great North Dog Walk held in June last year at the Gypsies Green Stadium, The Leas South Shields, England. A total of 5,017 dogs and their owners participated in the event.

San Pedro said the dog walk would be an opportunity for all canine lovers in the country to protest the senseless cruelty and indiscriminate slaughter of dogs.

The PCCI president said that as of Thursday, 80 percent of the registrants were owners of mixed breeds.

Church should clean up its own backyard

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

BUSINESS tycoon and diplomat Alfonso T. Yuchengco has come to the rescue of the beleaguered pre-need company, Pacific Plans Inc.

Although the PPI problem is corporate in nature, PPI having been a casualty of the skyrocketing tuition due to deregulation, Ambassador Yuchengco is doing this to help parents enroll their children.

Yuchengco showed a deep sense of the old school tradition and gentleman's culture of *palabra de honor* (word of honor) where money takes the back seat to honor.

Likewise, officials of another beleaguered pre-need firm, College Assurance Plan (CAP), announced they would not let down their planholders.

Bobby Café, CAP first vice president and spokesperson, said that despite the problem put in the way by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the firm had paid P500 million in tuition for the 2004-2005 school year. Some of the payments, Café said, were delayed but nevertheless the obligations were met.

The SEC, Café said, had continuously refused to issue CAP licenses to sell part of its shares to the public. The opening up of CAP to the public would have helped the company settle its obligations on time.

Of the P500 million paid in school year 2004-2005, P260 million was paid to planholders in Metro Manila; the rest were in the provinces, said Café.

"Our word is our bond," said Café.

So be it. This writer is among CAP's planholders.

* * *

Three bishops of the Catholic Church in the country have joined the clamor for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The three are Julio Xavier Labayen, Antonio Tobias and Deogracias Iniguez. They are backed by several organizations of priests and nuns.

Pardon me, Your Eminences, but isn't this interference in government affairs?

When you use the pulpit and your "holy" positions to call for the President to step down, that's interference no matter how you call it.

Why don't you just concentrate on saving souls, including your own, since many of you have sired children with choir members and female parishioners and abused young boys?

In short, clean up your backyard first.

* * *

Journalists will have to live with the fact that the Philippines is the most dangerous country for reporters, columnists, editors and commentators.

It's daunting, yes, but the job becomes more exciting. In war, there are bound to be casualties.

If journalists consider the Philippines a war-torn country like Iraq, then being killed or maimed is part of the territory.

But this is not to say that we should just let malefactors shoot us down like chicken. We should take precautions and, if possible, arm ourselves so we can fight back.

Contrary to what anti-gun advocates say, a gun in the hands of a law-abiding citizen is a deterrent to criminals.

* * *

That son of a gun of a radio commentator in Cagayan de Oro City is a shame to his colleagues.

He fired his gun after coming out of a beerhouse. He was issued a gun by no less than the Army so he could protect himself from people whom, he said, were out to kill him.

Now that the gun has been taken back by the Army, he's now in more serious trouble than he was before.

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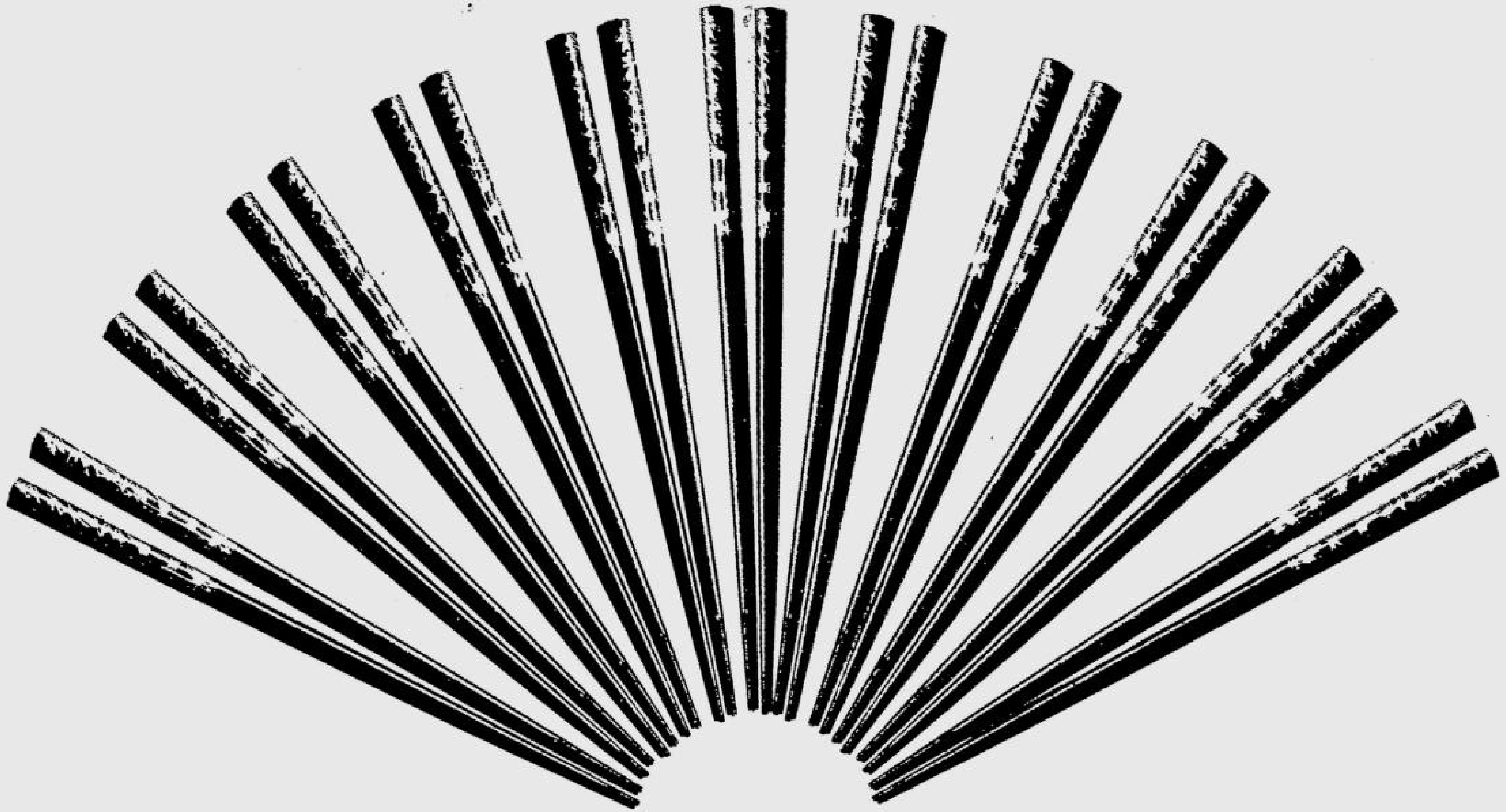

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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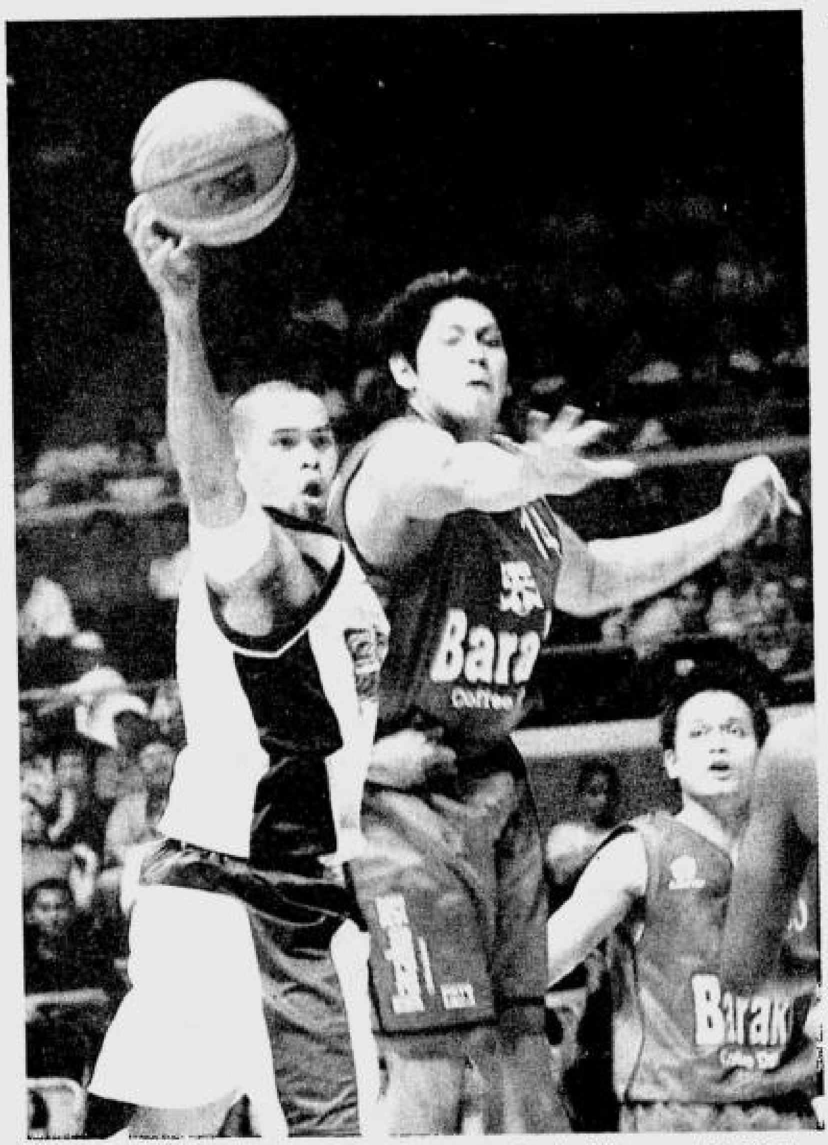
■ Who'll provide Welcoat's late heroics today? /A26



SHELL'S Ronald Tubid (left) dishes off a pass against Enrico Villanueva of Red Bull during their game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pro league sacks 20 of 27 Fil-Ams

By June Navarro

AT LEAST 20 Philippine Basketball Association players, including Barangay Ginebra's Eric Menk and San Miguel Beer's Danny Seigle, have been temporarily suspended for failing to comply with the requirements set by the league's board of governors on foreign-born players.

The league refused to divulge the names of the players, but sources said that aside from Menk and Seigle, also suspended were Jayjay Helterbrand and Andy Seigle of Barangay Ginebra; Sonny Thoss, Jeffrey Cariaso, Eugene Tejada, Willy Wilson and Rob Johnson of Alaska; Will Antonio and Rafi Reavis of Coca-Cola; Noy Castillo of Purefoods; Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer; Rich Alvarez, Billy Mamaril, Chris Jackson, Kalani Ferreria and Tony dela Cruz of Shell, and Jimmy Alapag of Talk 'N Text.

The PBA board came down hard on the foreign-bred dribblers following a league resolution requiring them to submit a new set of documents to prove their citizenship, apart from the clearances issued by the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration.

ALAPAG

THOSS

DELA CRUZ

"They have been temporarily suspended pending full compliance with the documentary requirements to update the records of the PBA," said league commissioner Noli Eala.

Eala mentioned the names of those who were cleared and they included Talk 'N Text's Harvey Carey; Coca-Cola's Ali Peek, Rob Wainwright and John Arigo; Mike Hrabak of Purefoods; Brandon Cablay of Alaska; San Miguel Beer's Nic Belasco, and Mike Cortez of Alaska.

Eala said the rest of the players from among the 27 born overseas would be suspended effective Sunday until they satisfy the requirements of the league.

"These requirements, however, do not have any bearing, as far as the PBA is concerned, on the status of players as foreign-born players in the league," said Eala.

"These are purely administrative requirements as imposed by the board. The players will be allowed to play as soon as they comply with them."

The PBA pegged the second deadline for the submission of the requirements last April 20 but only a handful of players managed to submit the documents needed to prove their Filipino roots.

Apart from the DOJ confirmation and BI clearance, the players were required to submit their duly authenticated birth certificates and marriage contracts of their parents, among other things.

Talk 'N Text whips Coca-Cola, grabs solo lead

By June Navarro

TALK 'N TEXT leaned on a hot start on the way to a 104-88 trashing of Coca-Cola, which gave the team the solo lead last night in the PBA Gran Matador Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Jerald Honeycutt had 28 points and 18 rebounds to lead the Phone Pals to their ninth win in 14 outings and stay in the position coach Joel Banal wants them to be in the elimination round.

"Our immediate goal is to stay at No. 1 or No. 2," said Banal. "That's why you can't afford to lose games at this stage. One loss drops you down the standings."

Honeycutt and Miller fired 12 points each in the first period as Talk 'N Text took a 36-20 lead an never looked back.

"Again, it's the familiarity Jerald has with the team," Banal said.

The Tigers fell to the bottom of the standings with their eighth loss against five victories.

In the first game, import Dalron Johnson totally outclassed his Shell counterpart to spark Red Bull Barako to a 97-76 victory.

Johnson went 12-of-17 from the field for 30 points and hauled down 13 rebounds while sending Melvin Robinson into early foul trouble as the Barako cruised to their sixth win in 13 games.

Saddled by fouls in the second period, Robinson cooled his heels on the bench and finished with 15 points to go with 13 boards for the Turbochargers, who fell into a three-way tie with the Barako and idle Sta. Lucia Realty.

"We know we have the ability to beat other teams, but our mental toughness toward the end is sometimes missing," said coach Yeng Guiao.

GAME TODAY (*Puerto Princesa Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—Purefoods vs Barangay Ginebra
GAMES TOMORROW (*Makati Coliseum*)
4:15 p.m.—Shell vs FedEx
6:35 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel Beer

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 97—Johnson 30, Asaytono 15, Tugade 14, Villanueva 13, Torion 9, Valenzuela 5, Meneses 5, Baguio 4, Ejercito 2, Ybañez 0.

SHELL 76—Robinson 15, Dela Cruz 14, Mamaril 11, Calaguio 11, Cruz 6, Jackson 6, Yap 5, Tubid 4, Sharma 2, Alvarez 2, Sotto 0, Sta. Maria 0.

Quarters: 16-15, 43-33, 62-56, 97-76

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 104—Honeycutt 28, Miller 21, Carey 17, Alapag 11, Telan 7, Fran 6, Camaso 6, Pablo 6, Belano 2, De Ocampo 0.

COCA-COLA 88—Sanford 30, Peek 15, Antonio 14, Arigo 12, Juinio 8, Abarrientos 4, Wainwright 3, Singson 2, Ramos 0, Chia 0, Avenido 0.

Quarters: 36-20, 51-40, 82-64, 104-88

TAULAVA CASE

No choice but for PBA to abide by DOJ ruling

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association has no recourse but to consider lifting Asi Taulava's suspension in case of a Department of Justice reversal.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala yesterday said the league would align its stand on Taulava with the decision of the DOJ, a day after Talk 'N Text's prized center presented new documents in a bid to prove his Filipino roots.

"If Taulava gets the nod of the DOJ, then the PBA will have to reevaluate his case," said Eala.

Taulava's clearance from the PBA will come after the 2003 PBA MVP has complied with the new set of requirements set by the league on foreign-bred players.

"We will scrutinize the documents... before making a decision," said Eala.

The DOJ divested its confirmation on Taulava and five other foreign-born PBA players—Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi, Alex Crisano, Jon Ordonio and Rudy Hatfield—for allegedly faking their citizenship papers.

Using the DOJ decision as basis, the PBA suspended Taulava and the five other players with the promise of redemption once the justice department changes its mind.

Harp, Pennisi and Ordonio have long left the country while Crisano, Hatfield and Taulava have been battling to overturn the DOJ ruling.

Taulava showed two copies of his birth registration, the death registration of his maternal grandmother and his parents' marriage certificate to the NBI the other day to belie claims that he falsified his citizenship papers.

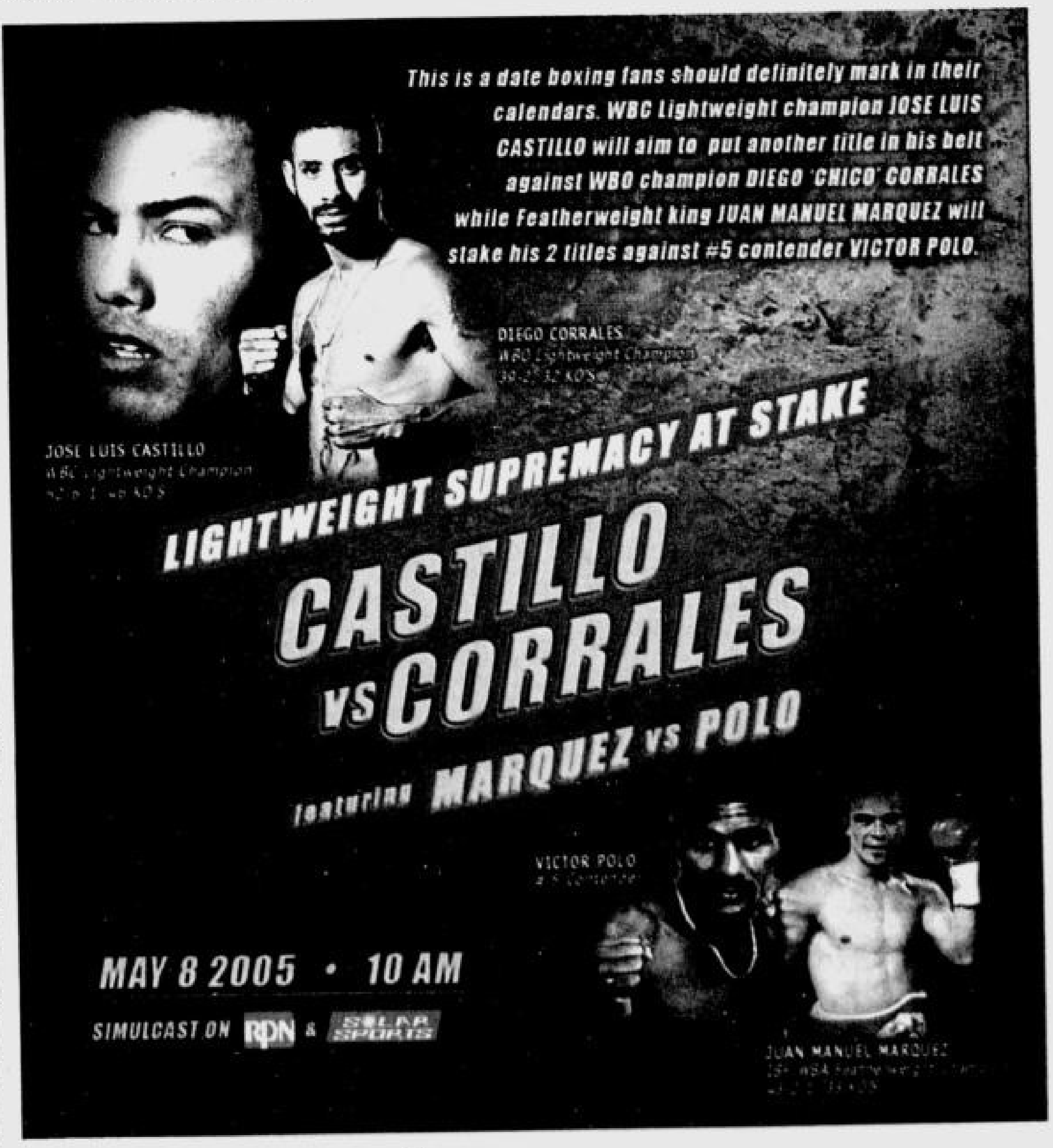
Eduardo Francisco, Taulava's lawyer, said his client's birth certificate showed that his mother Pauline Hernandez Mateaki was born in the Philippines.

Francisco also said the death certificate of Ana Hernandez Mateaki, Taulava's maternal grandmother, certified that she and Pauline were Filipino citizens.

Francisco added that the marriage certificate revealed that Pauline was naturalized as a Tongan national on Sept. 8, 1976.

The NBI will now forward Taulava's documents to the DOJ for appraisal. *June Navarro*

ASI Taulava (right) submits documents to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. ERIK ARAZAS


This is a date boxing fans should definitely mark in their calendars. WBC Lightweight champion JOSE LUIS CASTILLO will aim to put another title in his belt against WBO champion DIEGO 'CHICO' CORRALES while Featherweight king JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ will stake his 2 titles against #5 contender VICTOR POLO.

Who'll provide Welcoat's late heroics today?

CAN Welcoat do it again and send in another clutch performer to steal victory in the PBL Unity Cup today?

In Welcoat's recent games, different players had stepped up at crunch time, including Fil-Am star Anthony Washington, role player Christian Guevarra and rookie revelation Paolo Orbeta.

Thus, multi-titled Welcoat is again favored to grab a share of the lead when it goes up against Toyota Otis-Letran at the Pasig Sports Center today.

Nenaco-San Beda, meanwhile, tries to end its winless run against the similarly struggling Bacchus Energy Drink at 2 p.m.

Last Saturday, Welcoat stunned defending champ Magnolia Ice Cream in a thrilling 85-84 overtime win, highlighted by Guevarra's breathtaking putback with a tenth of a second left.

Washington delivered another double-double performance (22 points, 19 rebounds). It was also the 6-foot-7 forward who forced the extra period after burying a three-pointer with three seconds left in regulation.

With such a reliable cast, it isn't surprising that coach Caloy Garcia seems confident of repeating the Paintmasters' 72-66 win over the Knights last month

"Toyota Otis is a tough team but we'll be ready for them," he said.

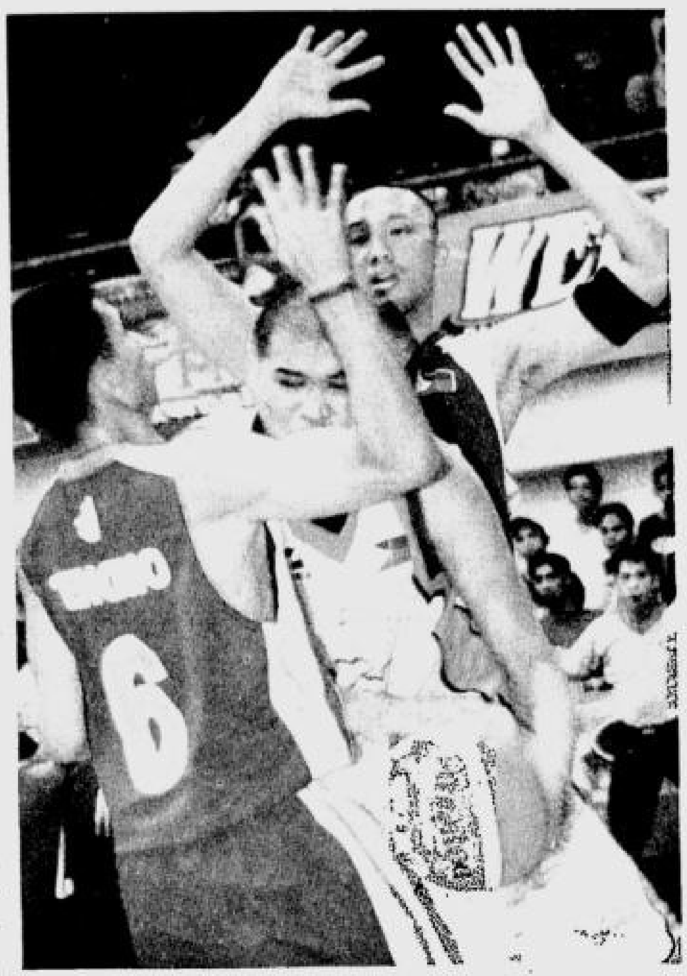
Interestingly, Welcoat has yet to win four straight games for over a year now. In the 2003 Platinum Cup, the team won eight straight but fell short in the finals.

Coach Louie Alas sees an even matchup, with Mark Macapagal and Emerson Oreta leading the Knights.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
Montaña	7	1
Welcoat	6	1
Harbour	6	2
Toyota Otis	4	3
Magnolia	3	5
G. Goose	3	5
Bacchus	1	6
Nenaco	0	7

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Nenaco-SBC vs Bacchus Energy
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Toyota Otis



JR Quiñahan of Granny Goose is sandwiched by LA Tenorio and Paolo Bugia of Harbour Centre
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SEA Games gold hope shines in Thai Open

ANOTHER bright prospect in the Southeast Asian Games sparkled when Midel Dique finished a strong second in the 800-meter run even as javelin thrower Rosie Villarito and the women's relay team plucked a bronze each in the Thailand Open yesterday.

Dique took home the silver on the last day of the event, with a time of one minute, 50.99 seconds, 1.45 seconds behind that of Lee Jae-hun of South Korea. Another Korean Euh Kyong-don wound up third in 1:51.09.

Dique's form, according to athletics chief Go Teng Kok, was a welcome surprise and offered yet another possibility of a SEA Games gold.

Villarito, who dabbled in boxing only to return to the field, bagged the bronze behind two Thai rivals. She logged a 49.54-meter effort, way off the winning distance of 54.74 but close to the silver output of 49.58m.

Grace Melgar, silver medalist in the 400m, skippered the 4x400 relay squad to a bronze performance with a time of 3:47.63, behind winner Kazakhstan (3:37.63) and second placer Vietnam (3:44.46).

Melgar, the 5-foot-10 heir apparent to Elma Muros-Posadas, anchored the team made up of Meriam Fortunato, Maricel Sibog and Sharon Jizmundo.

The RP tracksters, funded by San Miguel Corp. and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., will go home with a gold from javelin champ Danilo Fresnido, six silvers and four bronzes.

Other medal winners: Rene Herrera, two silvers in 1,500m and 3,000; Ernie Candelario, silver in the 400m; Mercedita Manipol, silver in 10,000m; Julius Nierra, bronze in the 400 hurdles; Jimar Aing, bronze in the 400m. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Zamar to be named RP coach in Seaba meet?

By Musong R. Castillo

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines is close to getting Boysie Zamar, its original choice, named coach of the national team to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) tournament in Singapore next month.

Zamar's appointment could be made in a couple of days, a source from the BAP board who requested anonymity told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The BAP agreed to abide by the changes imposed by the powerful basketball committee of POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco provided Zamar is named coach, the same source said.

Go Teng Kok, the athletics and chess chief and special assistant to Cojuangco at the POC, reportedly brokered the meeting and promised to "mediate" in behalf of the BAP to ultimately land the job for Zamar.

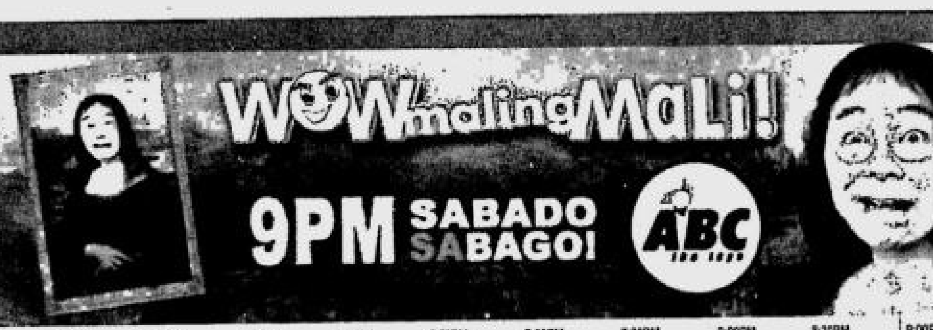
Zamar, the BAP board's choice, is very close to Go, having played for the Goyu and Sons team in many commercial leagues in the late 80s and early 90s.

Details of the meeting were supposed to be kept under wraps until Chot Reyes, whom Cojuangco appointed as the man in charge for the Seaba team, was named the national coach in the next few days.

Members of the BAP's board, led by Visayas vice president Filomeno "Boy" Codinera, raised an uproar when the possibility of Zamar not coaching the RP Seaba squad loomed.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, May 7, 2005



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginig: The Hidden Files		Star Dance		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Star Cinema Presents			Kontrobersyal (11.45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown		Loren		Diretsahan		Viva Box Office				Sing Galing		Maverick & Ariel	Onstage		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9		Global Window		Byaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Lifestyle		Johnny Walker Classic				Bitag		In This Corner		Ugnayang Pambansa	
JackTV		WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		Wow		Slambal		UFC Recall				Thunder Box	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	1, 2, 3	Snack: Unfabulous/Newy/All Grown Up/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Temptation Island		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Sports TV	Mr Bean	7th Heaven	Gilmore Girls (7.45 PM)		The Bachelor (8.40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				Reel Deal
AXN									E Buzz	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)					
Star World	Action Man	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Adventure Inc		Roswell		Dark Angel		TNA Xplosion		Most Incredible Animal Rescues/ Saturday Shockumentaries		Dog The Bounty Hunter	Cops	The Kumars At No. 42	Goodness Gracious Me
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News	Design 360	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide: The Threat Of Global Warming	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nile				Battle For The Beaches		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wildlife Diary	Big Bite Nile			
Solar Sports				Kotv Magazine	World Table Tennis Champs Finals				Super X Series	Sports Desk	Greatest Classics				NBA Playoffs First Round				
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO				Superman II				The Wild Thornberrys Movie			Beverly Hills Ninja			Once Upon A Time In Mexico			Six Feet Under 46: The Dare		Analyze That (11.35PM)
Star Movies	The Ticket (2.45 PM)	The Jackal (3.15PM)				Underworld (5.15PM)				Bulletproof Monk (7.15PM)				Master And Commander: The Far Side Of The World					Die Hard 2: Die Harder (11.20PM)
Cartoon Network		The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown	Winx Club	Atomic Betty	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Teen Titans	Star Wars: Clone Wars		The Looney Tunes Show (8.45PM)	Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Codename: Kids Next Door	Samurai Jack	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
ESPN	World Skating Challenge			Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Classic Boxing J. Frazier vs. O. Bonavena		NBA Playoffs First Round			World Pool Masters '04 Ann Zee Holland		
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina, The Animated Series	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Phil Of The Future	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			Dave The Barbarian	Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	Rabbit-Proof Fence (2.45 PM)			Berserker: Hell's Warrior			Free Willy 3 The Rescue				Combustion (7.20 PM)			A Perfect World				The Life Of David Gale (11.15PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Christy: Return To Cutter Gap				The Prince And The Pauper				Have Mercy				Lives Of The Saints			Lives Of The Saints		
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Science Frontiers		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		The New Detectives		Extreme Discovery	
Sports Plus					Rookie Manual	Zurich Classic of New Orleans Highlights		Italia Serie A Highlights 13		Bikini Destination	Nopi Tunerversion	World's Greatest Auto Shows		The Search TV	Get A Grip On Golf	Wachovia C'ship Day2			
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		Gold & Glory In Greece		Search For The 1st Tanduay Billiards Player		To Be Announced			Business & Leisure		

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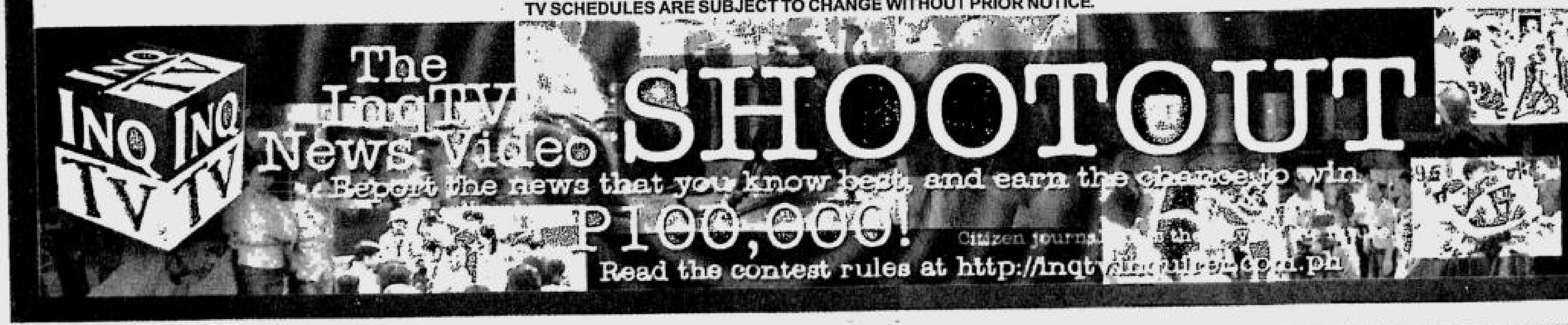

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INQBOX

Question of the Week

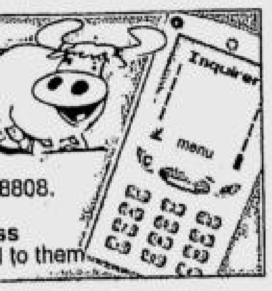
More than 90 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since 1986. The Committee to Protect Journalists has identified the Philippines as "the most murderous country for journalists," followed by Iraq, Colombia, Bangladesh and Russia. What should be done to end the killings?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! Ü*

inquirer box name/age/city/message.

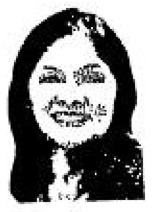
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.



We've joined a new team

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

SURPRISED? It's really me. I've moved to a new home, joined a new team where I hope to continue to provide you with the latest, the hottest and the juiciest items on the sporting scene and behind. I also hope you enjoy my pieces, just as much as I enjoy writing them for you.

* * *

The last place he wants to be, according to RP coach Chot Reyes, is in the midst of a raging controversy.

Unfortunately, that's exactly where he finds himself right now.

"I'm just here to coach," said Chot, who has been tasked by the basketball committee to form a team for the Seaba, replacing the Cebuana Lhuillier-sponsored RP team which was toppled by the Parañaque selection of Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana in the NBC.

Last Wednesday, the Cebuana Lhuillier cagers called up Chot to excuse themselves from regular workouts at the Moro Lorenzo Gym. Chot said he didn't know if they were still coming back to resume practice with the PBL cagers.

The following day, RP team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier announced he was withdrawing his support to the BAP, which many took to mean he was disbanding the Cebuana Lhuillier team.

Chot, for his part, said he would continue to train what he calls the Seaba national aspirants, regardless of what the situation may be, as mandated by the basketball committee.

"*Basta tuloy ang preparasyon*, whatever happens, the team is at the country's disposal," Chot stressed.

The aspirants will see action in the PBA pocket tournament scheduled this weekend, featuring the visiting Sydney Kings.

* * *

Now if you think that the Cebuana Lhuillier team has been disbanded, as we may all presume after Jean Henri's pullout, well, a high-ranking BAP official has informed me that they will be taking over the reins of the national team—although now it will only be referred to as the national squad.

"We intend to reinforce the squad for the Seaba in Singapore this June. We are also looking for a new godfather for this team which will also compete in the Southeast Asian Games in November and the Asian Games in 2006," said the official.

Meanwhile, when asked if it was true that Cebuana was supporting the team that will be formed by Chot for the Seaba, Hector Jimenez of Cebuana Lhuillier replied: "Mr. Lhuillier made a complete pullout, and the same was relayed to Messrs. Peping Cojuangco and Tiny Literal."

* * *

A female scribe covering the PBA got very curious when she noticed a number of PBA cagers, most of them macho Fil-Ams, coming in and out of one of the rooms at the Cuneta Astrodome where the games were being held that day.

She got so very curious that, when she saw Ali Peek enter the room, she surreptitiously followed to take a peek at what was going on inside. She saw Ali Peek raise his shirt to show his muscled abs to a man who, the scribe said, certainly didn't look like a doctor.

"It was more like the man was conducting auditions for Chippendale's," the scribe said.

Embarrassed, she left in a huff. Later, she found out that the wife of a high-ranking PBA official was producing a fashion show that will feature male models in underwear like thongs and bikinis.

Had she stayed long enough, might the scribe have witnessed the more revealing part of the screening?

* * *

When Red Bull head honcho George Chua blew the candles on his birthday cake last Wednesday (05-05-05), he must've silently wished for a third PBA title for his Barako who last posted back-to-back championships three years ago in 2002.

But being too shy to speak out his thoughts, George merely expressed his hopes that his team consistently be a contender in every PBA conference. "*At sana, bumalik na rin uli ang sigla ng* PBA (I also hope the PBA regains its popularity)," he added.

George celebrated his birthday quietly with his family. Although he turned 51 this year, the man who wrote and composed the song "Kung Hindi Rin Lang Ikaw" swears he feels 10 years younger. Where and how he gets the energy, George wouldn't tell.

* * *

Arrangements are being made to have the Rudy Distrito Basketball Invitationals in Carson City, a one-day fundraising tourney for the incarcerated cager, videotaped for airing here in the Philippines.

Through advertisements, TV producers Elmer Yanga and Ronnie Nathanielsz feel that the video can generate additional funds for Rudy since this will not be a profit-oriented venture for them.

Four teams will be joining the tourney perceived to be a reunion of sorts for former PBA, MBA, PABL and Micaa players.

USJR ousts FEU; Falcons fall, too

ST. BENILDE'S Janilyn Sarabia (right) sets up an attack as Julett Mae Marikit of USJR rises prematurely for a block. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

BORACAY—Defending men's champion University of San Jose-Recoletos got back at early tormentor Far Eastern University, 21-16, yesterday and made it to the semifinal round at the expense of the Tamaraws in the ninth Nestea Beach Volley here.

The second straight victory from the losers' bracket of the USJR tandem of Joseph Alguno and Jonrey Sasing duplicated a similar feat by Mindanao State University, which toppled Adamson for its second win for the day, 21-18, to eliminate the Falcons.

Only College of St. Benilde and University of Southern Philippines survived the curse that fell on the top four teams of the eliminations, including FEU and Adamson.

The CSB pair of Arnold Laniog and Janley Patrona ousted University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos' Neil Magillano and Janus Dumaran, 21-17, to arrange a semifinal meeting with the USP combination of Ronald Melencio and James Rivera, who advanced after a 21-15 romp over the University of Mindanao's Christopher Juan and Dinri Yambao.

But the form book held in the women's division with the best four pairs yesterday sailing into the semifinals with emphatic triumphs on the second day of this popular event serving as main summer attraction in this world-famous vacation paradise.

University of Visayas underscored its might with a 21-6 rout of Holy Cross of Davao College and will try to make it to the finals against two-time defending champion and fellow Cebu-based Southwestern U, a 21-14 winner over Foundation U.

The other semifinal pairing pits University of Mindanao-Tagum against USJR.

UMT eliminated UM-Davao, 21-18, while USJR bumped off St. Benilde by the same score.

A top prize of P100,000 is at stake in both divisions with the schools of the champion teams getting P50,000 worth of sports equipment.

Alguno and Sasing, who lost to Tams Rolan Macahia and Jesse Lopez, 21-15, in their first meeting, proved too strong this time after earlier disposing of their rivals from UM-T, 21-14, in the morning.

To add to Manila's embarrassment, the MSU duo of Gabshar Tahiluddin and Yusop Abdulkarin whipped Falcons Mike Alinsunurin and Sheriwin Meneses after earlier hurdling Ateneo de Davao.

This year's sponsors are Speedo, Mikasa, Cebu Pacific, Hey Jude Resorts, La Salle Greenhills, Villa de Oro, Coppertone, Boracay Regency, Power Plant Mall, National Sports Grill and ClickTheCity.com.

M. Lhuillier-RP comeback falls short in Dubai caging

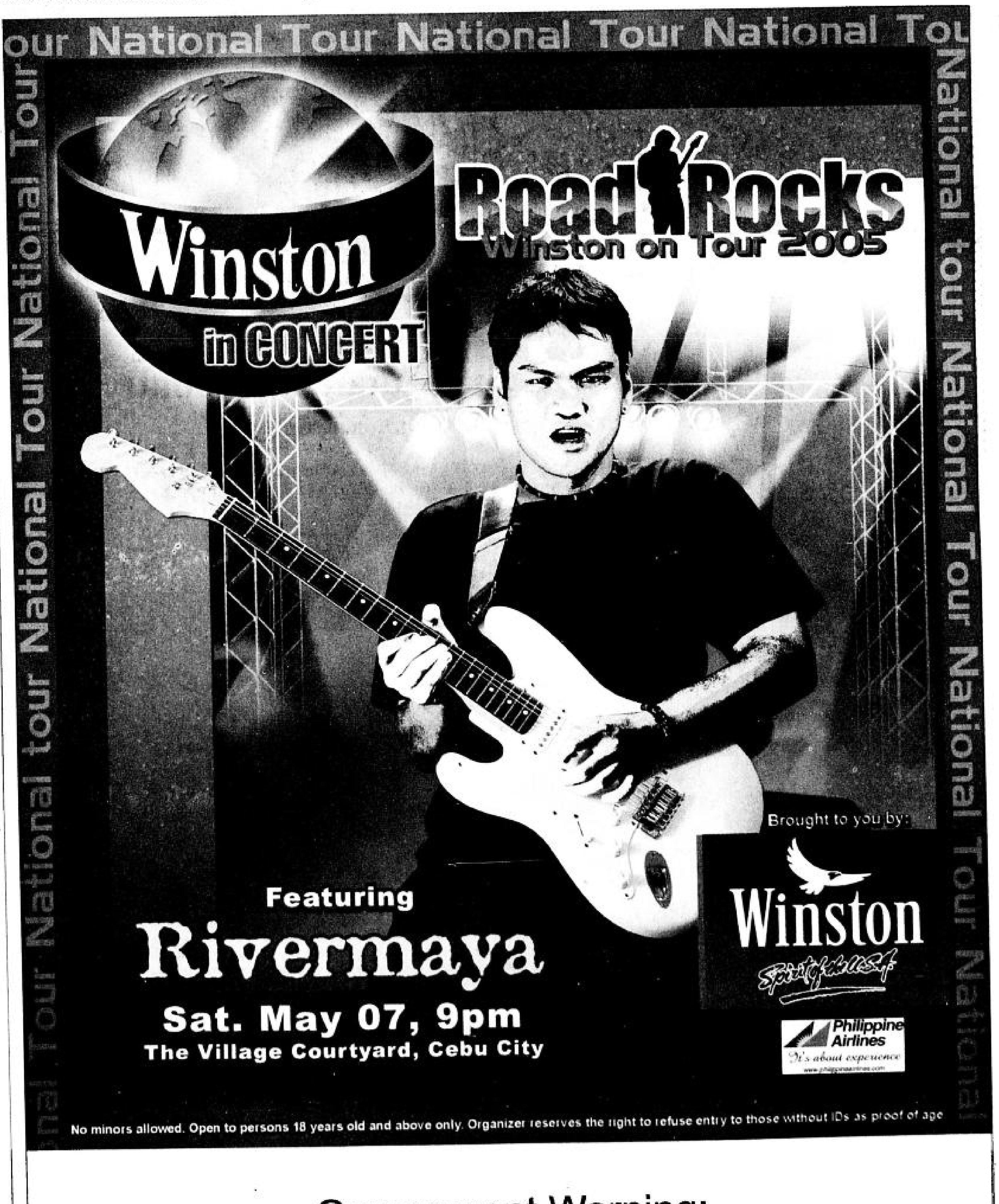
DUBAI, UAE—M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Philippines threatened with a searing homestretch rally but allowed Champville-Lebanon to escape with a 94-88 victory Thursday night in the First Sheik Hamdan Basketball Tournament at the Al Nasr Sports Club here.

Egged on by a big crowd, majority of whom were Filipino workers, the URBL champ closed in at 86-90 with 1:30 left.

However, Lhuillier coach Yayoy Alcoseba was slapped a technical foul for disputing a non-call on a goal-tending violation by Lebanon import Stephen Howard, who once played for San Miguel Beer.

The infraction snapped the Lhuillier team's momentum and Howard and Danny Johnson, who also played for Talk 'N Text, joined forces to thwart the Filipinos.

Lhuillier trailed most of the way, but put up stiff resistance in the final period behind 6-foot-9 import Broderick Bobb and the outside sniping of Aldrin Ocanada and Danilo Aying.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Rivermaya
Sat. May 07, 9pm
The Village Courtyard, Cebu City
No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age

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We fuel a brighter tomorrow.

The Petron Bataan Refinery inaugurates the country's first and only Light Virg

The Light Virgin Naphtha Isomerization Unit.

Petron has invested in the system that increases the gasoline's octane rating while making it more environment-friendly. The result is gasoline that meets the Euro IV emissions standards, the most stringent in the world.

The Gas Oil Hydrotreater.

This unit improves the quality of diesel fuel with the reduction of sulfur and other impurities resulting in cleaner emissions.

We fuel our commitment to the Filipino.

Our locally produced fuels meet anc
standards of the Clean Air Act. These two u
our commitment to provide a reliab
petroleum products to the country and co
economic progress.

Messages

Malacañan Palace
Manila, Philippines

My congratulations to Petron Corporation as you inaugurate your Gas Oil Hydrotreater (GOHT) and Isomerization (Isom) Units.

The setting up of these two new facilities is an affirmation of Petron's commitment to a steady and reliable supply of environment-friendly fuels. The facility will make Petron the only local refiner that could supply Clean Air Act compliant gasoline without resorting to importation. It is also a step closer towards our goal of energy self-reliance and hopefully could make us at par with our Southeast Asian neighbors in oil refining technology.

Petron's investments will indeed contribute to our efforts to beat the odds towards a prosperous and environmentally-sound Philippines.

More power!

Gloria Arroyo
Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo
President

Department of Energy
Manila, Philippines

Congratulations to Petron Corporation for inaugurating a new Gas Oil Hydrotreater and the first Isomerization Unit at its Bataan refinery. These investments are significant at a time when the country is becoming more responsive to producing finished petroleum products to meet the fuel specifications under the Clean Air Act (CAA). With these two units on-stream, the country is assured of a stable and reliable source of CAA-compliant petroleum products.

The Department of Energy is pleased to note that the modernization of Petron's refinery facilities is supportive of our drive towards a stable, adequate and secure energy supply to meet the requirements of a growing economy.

Once again, congratulations and mabuhay!

Raphael P.M. Lotilla
Energy Secretary

Petron Corporation
Manila, Philippines

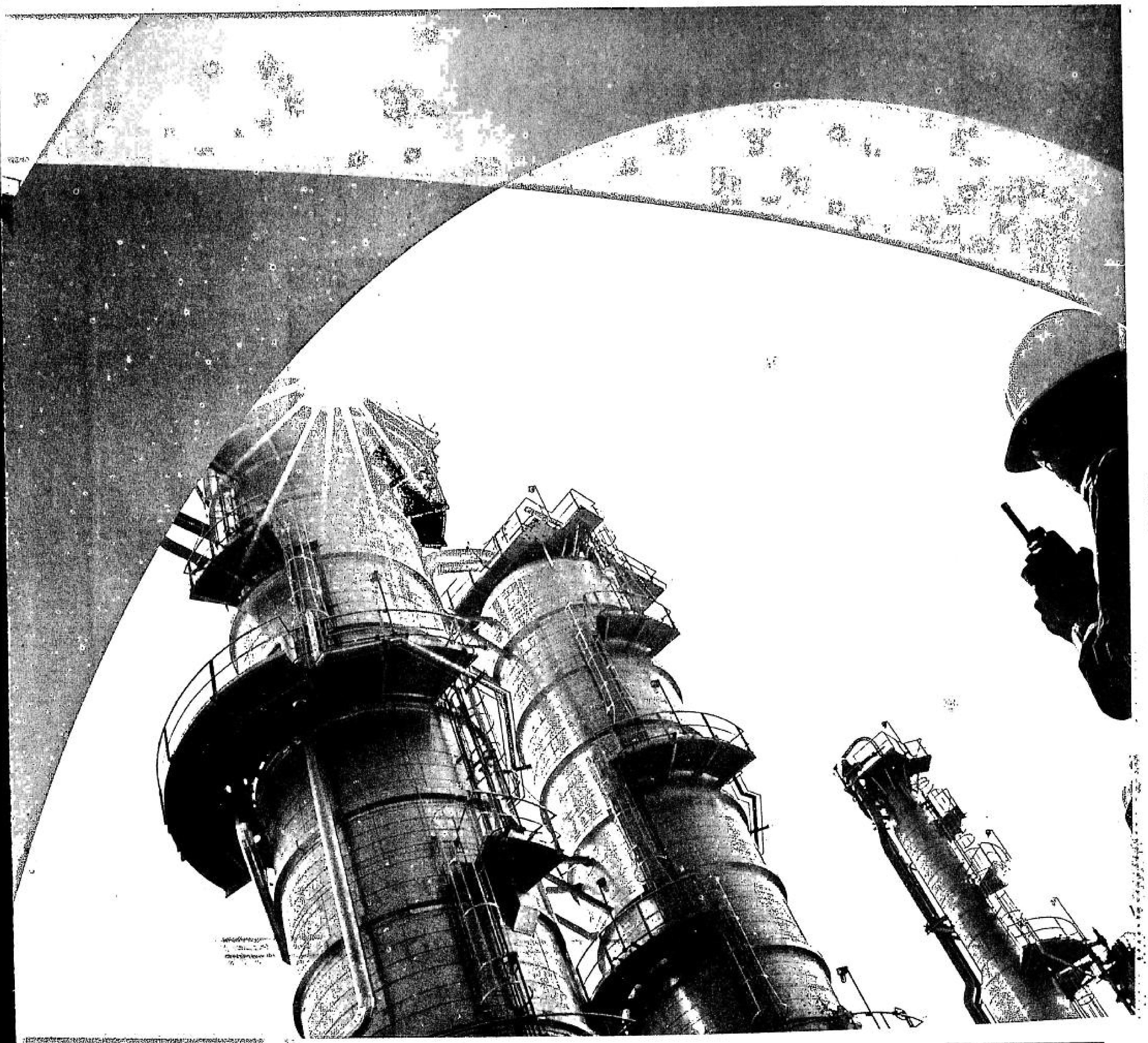
We take great pride in the inauguration of our new refinery facilities. This $100-million investment in a Gas Oil Hydrotreater and an Isomerization Unit testifies to our commitment to provide a reliable supply of petroleum products to the country and contribute to its economic progress.

With the commissioning of the two units, Petron is now in the unique position of being the only oil company in the country capable of supplying Clean Air Act-compliant gasoline and diesel to our customers entirely from our own local production.

We would like to assure our stakeholders that we will continue to make investments that not only help in achieving our business objectives but also secure a better future for the next generation of Filipinos.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Nicasio I. Alcantara
Chairman



gin Naphtha Isomerization Unit and a new Gas Oil Hydrotreater.

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We fuel self-reliance.

With these new units, we can now meet our customers' requirements for CAA-compliant gasoline and diesel entirely from our own local production.

We fuel the future generation.

Petron continues to work for a world where innovative products enrich lives and protect the environment. Because at Petron, we are committed to a cleaner, safer and sustainable world for our customers, community and country.

PETRON
Fuel Success.

Petron Corporation
Manila, Philippines

Today, we mark another milestone in our company's long history as we start up the Philippines' first and only LVN Isomerization Unit and a new Gas Oil Hydrotreater.

These strategic investments were made possible by the dynamic partnership between the Philippine National Oil Company and Saudi Aramco through the Petron Corporation. They are part of our ongoing efforts to comply with the highest environmental standards and to make our Bataan refinery the best in its class.

These new facilities strengthen our market leadership and bring us closer to our vision of providing total customer solutions. It also supports our drive to be the brand of choice in the highly competitive oil industry.

Khalid D. Al-Faddagh
President

We give them cleaner air to breathe.

PETRON BLAZE · PETRON DIESEL MAX · PETRON XCS PLUS · PETRON UNLEADED

We only want clean air for your lungs. So we only pump clean fuel into your cars. Our wide range of pure, environment-friendly fuels give you cleaner emissions and better performance for a smoother drive. At Petron, clean air is our top priority.

MCGRADY: Win or go home AFP

Celtics, Rockets force Game 7s

INDIANAPOLIS—In the wildest game yet of a series headed to a Game 7, the Celtics overcame the late ejection of Paul Pierce to send their first-round matchup with the Indiana Pacers back to Boston.

Antoine Walker scored 24 points Thursday, including a go-ahead 3-pointer early in overtime and the clinching basket with a minute to go, in Boston's 92-89 victory.

"It's one of the best games I've played in on the road," Walker said. "I told myself to stay in the game mentally and keep playing, no matter what. Paul has carried us through this series and I wanted to pick it up for him tonight."

"That is the craziest game I've ever seen in my life," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "This series has just been unreal."

Boston came back from an early 11-point deficit, took the lead late in the second quarter and stayed in front until the closing seconds of regulation, when Pierce was ejected for his second technical foul.

Boston led 84-83 at the time, and Pierce had just been intentionally fouled by Jamaal Tinsley as the Pacers tried to stop the clock. Tinsley hit Pierce in the neck while fouling him, and Pierce appeared to swing his elbow in anger.

Referee Steve Javie did not immediately make a call. But after huddling with the other two officials, Pierce was assessed his second technical foul of the game—an automatic ejection.

Reggie Miller hit the technical foul shot to tie the game, and the Pacers got to choose which Celtics player would replace Pierce at the foul line. They selected Kendrick Perkins, a 64-percent foul shooter, and he missed both attempts.

"It was an overreaction to a hard foul and I lost my cool out there. It almost cost us," Pierce said. "I'm just happy we got the win. I don't know how I'd feel if we lost this game."

Davis had a playoff career-high 22 points and Pierce added 20 for Boston.

Jermaine O'Neal led Indiana with 26 points.

Rockets 101, Mavericks 83

In Houston, playing with the desperation of a man on the brink of elimination, Tracy McGrady had 37 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to help the Houston Rockets avoid elimination with a 101-83 victory over Dallas on Thursday.

"We played with a sense of urgency. We played big," McGrady said. "I also had a little help from my teammates tonight."

McGrady refused to be denied in Game 6, and now he'll have one more chance to advance in the playoffs for the first time in his career.

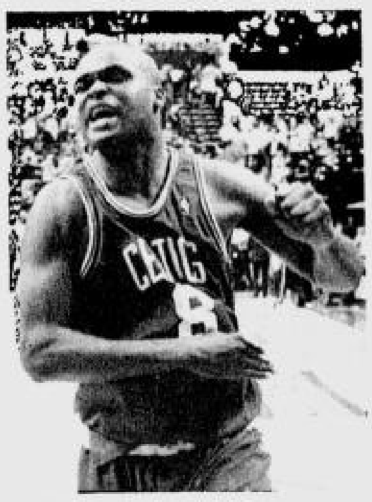
The first-round series is now tied 3-3, with Game 7 in Dallas on Saturday. The winner will face top-seeded Phoenix in the Western Conference semifinals.

"I have been in that situation (seventh game) before," McGrady said. "I am just going to leave everything on the floor and bring my teammates with me."

"It was win or go home and we definitely didn't want to go home right now, so we came out and played big," he added.

Mike James came off the bench for 22 points and Jon Barry scored 12 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter for the Rockets, who have been bounced in the opening round in their last three playoff appearances. Houston last won a series in 1997, when the lineup featured Hakeem Olajuwon, Clyde Drexler and Charles Barkley.

Jerry Stackhouse led Dallas with 21 points, and Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 on only 5-of-22 shooting as he continued his series-long struggles against McGrady's defense. *AP, AFP, Reuters*



ANTOINE Walker celebrates Boston's Game 6 victory. AP

Grow up, Shaq tells LA owner

MIAMI, Florida—Miami's giant center Shaquille O'Neal leveled his guns at his former boss on Thursday, saying Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss needs to set a better example and act his age.

"I didn't need motivation," Heat superstar O'Neal said. "I needed a real owner, not a guy that parties with girls three times (younger than Buss)—when you're 60, hang out with 60-year-olds, not 20-year-olds.

"You can quote me on that. I've got nothing else to say about Jerry Buss."

O'Neal was reacting to Buss' comments on Wednesday that Buss didn't regret trading O'Neal despite the Lakers' struggles without him.

Buss then said he might not have made the deal for Lamar Odom, Brian Grant, Caron Butler and the first-round draft pick if the three-time playoff MVP O'Neal had taken better care of his health.

"I don't regret him losing money and him not making the playoffs," said O'Neal, who played eight seasons with the Lakers.

Buss also patted himself on the back for O'Neal's resurgence with the Heat.

O'Neal led Miami to the best record in the Eastern Conference and a first-round NBA playoff series win over New Jersey. Buss said that O'Neal only lost 60 pounds (actually 30 pounds) this season because the trade to Miami motivated him.

"It seems that the motivation for him to lose weight was to trade him," Buss said. "If I had known he was going to lose 60 pounds I probably would have made a different decision."

O'Neal participated in a light practice session Thursday, and said afterward that his injuries are healed and his left leg is "perfect." O'Neal has been bothered the last few weeks by a bruise on his right leg.

O'Neal is down 30 pounds from last season's 360-pound playing weight. The 7-foot-1 O'Neal said there has been one drawback.

"When I get hit, I feel it a little bit more, but my legs and knees feel better," said O'Neal. *AFP*

Trainer Zito set to join exclusive Derby club

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Nick Zito is about to join D. Wayne Lukas as the only trainers to saddle five horses for a single Kentucky Derby.

Lukas turned the feat in 1996, sending out five horses and winning with Grindstone, "by half an inch," Lukas said. "That made the day."

Zito hopes any of his five horses hit the finish line first in Saturday's Derby, whether it's 5-2 favorite Bellamy Road or 50-1 long shot Andromeda's Hero. New York Yankees boss George Steinbrenner is partial to Bellamy Road, though, because he's the owner.

"It'll be a memorable Derby," Zito said. "May the best horse win, and hopefully it'll be one of ours."

Bellamy Road comes into the 1 1/4-mile (2,000-meter) Derby off two overpowering victories, a 17 1/2-length romp in the Wood Memorial last month and a 15 3/4-length win in an allowance race a month earlier.

There were no arguments from the rest of the field when Churchill Downs oddsmaker Mike Battaglia tabbed Bellamy Road as the top choice.

"Off his last performance he earned it," said Tim Ritchey, trainer of 9-2 second choice Afleet Alex. "Horses don't do that every day of the week."

Bellamy Road will be ridden by Javier Castellano and leave from the No. 16 post.

"I wanted to be on the outside with that horse," Zito, looking for his third Derby win, said. "He's like a big cat. I have no excuse. We have a shot, and he'll get a clear run."

The No. 16 post has worked well in the last 10 years, producing three Derby winners. *AP*

Okafor, Howard in rookie squad

NEW YORK—Dwight Howard, Emeka Okafor and Ben Gordon, who backed up their top-three order in last year's National Basketball Association draft, led the All-Rookie team honors announced on Thursday.

Luol Deng, Gordon's teammate in Chicago, and Andre Iguodala also were also chosen in voting by 30 coaches, who were barred from voting for players on their own teams.

It was the second honor in as many days for Charlotte's Okafor, who edged Gordon for the Rookie of the Year award on Wednesday.

The two played together in college at Connecticut and were selected two and three in the 2004 draft after Orlando chose Howard out of high school.

Okafor led all first-year players in scoring (15.1 points) and rebounding (10.9). The 22-year-old son of Nigerian immigrants was fourth in the NBA in both rebounding and double-doubles (47) and 14th in blocks (1.71).

While he missed out on Rookie of the Year, Gordon on Tuesday became the first rookie to win the league's Sixth Man Award.

Gordon played in all 82 games, coming off the bench in 79, and averaged 15.1 points on 41-percent shooting along with 2.6 rebounds and 2.0 assists. *AFP*

RP's own Amazing Race reels off today

By Jasmine W. Payo

VETERAN formula car racer Mike Potenciano and national triathlon record-holder Nonoy Jopson lead 17 teams in today's start of the P1-Million Islands Paradise Adventure at the Quirino Granstand, Rizal Park in Manila.

Major tourist spots in Luzon serve as the entire course in the nine-day motorcar rally, with pit stops at Baler, Quezon; Subic, Olongapo; Alaminos, Pangasinan; Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Penablanca, Tuguegarao, Banaue, Ifugao; Laoag, Ilocos Norte; Vigan, Ilocos Sur, and Metro Manila.

Each three-man team will drive off to these spots in a sports utility vehicle or 4x4 and complete various physical and mental challenges such as orienteering, rappelling, swimming, boat paddling, running, biking, spelunking and wall climbing.

Seasoned adventure racers, triathletes, members of the 1st Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team and five groups from the Visayas are vying for the top prize. The two runners-up will receive P300,000 and P100,000 plus trophies and gift certificates.

Patterned after the hit TV reality show "Amazing Race," each leg will take 12 to 18 hours to complete. The finish line of the 2,000-km course will also be at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park in Manila.

The event, a project of the Department of Tourism, will also be staged in the Visayas between October to December. A Mindanao leg has also been slated next year.

JAPAN'S Kei Nishikori returns to Peraklat Siriluethaiwattana of Thailand. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Aussies sweep RP juniors, forge battle with Japanese

TOP SEED Australia and second seed Japan registered contrasting victories yesterday to forge a title showdown in the Junior Davis Cup Asia-Oceania qualifying at the Manila Polo Club court.

The Australians blasted fourth seed Philippines, 3-0, while the Japanese survived third seed Thailand, 2-1.

Stephen Donald, semifinalist in the Taiwan International Juniors last March, outclassed Pablo Olivarez II, 6-2, 6-0, and Patrick Nicholls, who reached the second round of the 2005 Australian Open Juniors, whipped Kyle Joshua Dandan, 6-3, 6-1. Donald and Nicholls won the doubles over Ralph Kevin Barte and Dandan, 6-4, 7-5.

Thailand won the first singles with Kittiphong Wachiramanowong downing Fumiaki Kita, 6-2, 6-3, but Japan tied the count behind Kei Nishikori's 6-4, 6-3 victory over Peraklat Siriluethaiwattana in the second singles. The Japanese wrapped it up in the doubles as the tandem of Kita and Nishikori mastered Wachiramanowong and Siriluethaiwattana, 7-5, 6-4.

The final match between Australia and Japan, and the battle for third place between Philippines and Thailand are set at 10 a.m. today.

All four seeds in this weeklong event presented by BNP Paribas and sponsored by Wilson balls and Astoria Plaza Hotel advanced to the World Junior Championships slated Sept. 27 to Oct. 2 in Barcelona, Spain.

"Overall, the boys did a very good job," said head coach Johnny Jose, a former RP Davis Cupper. "They made the country proud."

Jose, an Asian Games gold medalist, hopes the team can train and play in some tournaments in Spain before the World Championships.

Dandan, the country's top junior, is set to compete in the Guam Invitationals next week before joining the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Under 16 Touring Team that will compete in Europe for two months.

Barte and Olivarez are both veterans of the ITF Junior Circuit. Together with Russell Arcilla Jr., they led the Philippine campaign in the 14-Under World Championships in Czech Republic two years ago.

In other results, seventh seed Chinese Taipei defeated Sri Lanka, 2-0, to a forge a fifth-place duel with China.

Unseeded China banked on Sa Chen's 6-4, 6-2 victory over Navneetha Kannan Baskaran and Zhou Zhouqing's 6-3, 6-1 decision over Agnel Gladwin Peter, to post a 2-0 upset win over sixth seed India.

InqBox Question of the Week

Some pre-need companies like CAP and Pacific Plans are having problems with the educational plans they sold. Your message to them?

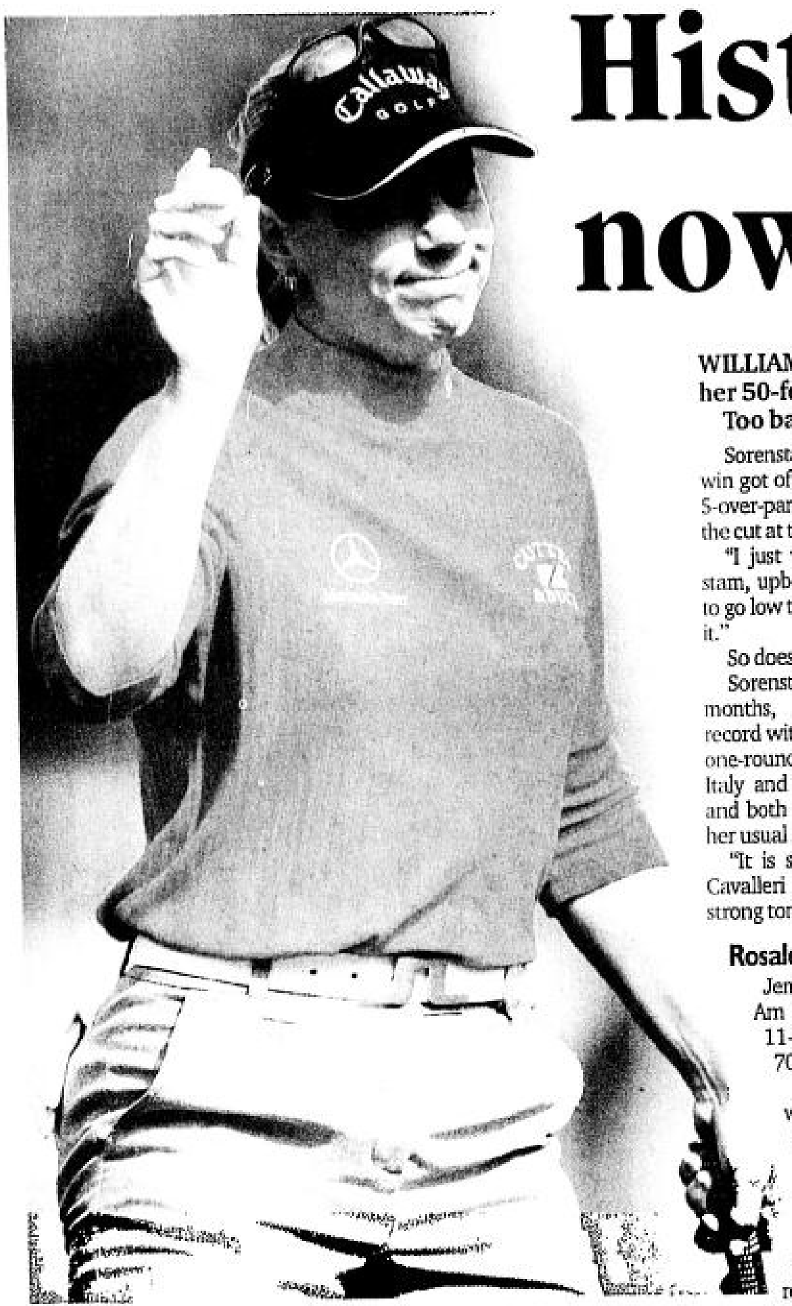
Win this *Inquirer mug

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's InqBox wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! Ü

Key in: inquirer news name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

History? Annika now chasing cut



THERE were a few moments of brilliance and Annika Sorenstam manages a little smile after one of them—a rare birdie at No. 14. AFP

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—Annika Sorenstam raised her arms in triumph as her 50-foot chip shot rolled into the cup for a birdie.

Too bad the rest of her round didn't go that way.

Sorenstam's quest for a record sixth straight win got off to an ugly start Thursday. She shot a 5-over-par 76, and had some work to do to make the cut at the Michelob Ultra Open.

"I just want to move forward," said Sorenstam, upbeat despite the rough round. "I've got to go low the next three days, and I know I can do it."

So does everybody else.

Sorenstam has been winning at will in recent months, tying Nancy Lopez's long-standing record with five consecutive victories. This was a one-round fluke, co-leaders Silvia Cavalleri of Italy and Sweden's Catrin Nilsmark (67) said, and both expect Sorenstam to quickly return to her usual form.

"It is surprising, yes, because it is Annika," Cavalleri said. "But I am sure she will come strong tomorrow."

Rosales, Delasin

Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines and Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin were bunched in an 11-strong group at 1-under after both fired 70s to stay three shots off pace.

When Sorenstam closed her round with that birdie, she hoped it was a sign of things to come.

"I'm hoping my luck is turning," she said. "That's how I'm going to look at it. That's what I need the next three days."

Still, even one bad day is unusual for Sorenstam. Her score was her highest in relation to par since a 5-over 77 in the second round of the 2002 British Open. That, by the way, also was the last time she missed a cut. She shot a 76 in the second round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship last year.

It also was her highest score in an opening round since a 76 in the 2000 Rochester International, and it ended a stretch of 43 rounds at par or better.

"I don't know what to say about this round," she said. "I thought I played pretty good today. It just didn't go my way at all."

Human, after all

Sorenstam hasn't played since winning the Kraft Nabisco and had a five-week layoff. But she said she felt good going into the round. She wasn't feeling pressure about the streak, either, forgetting all about it after making a bogey on her second hole.

She just had a bad day, something most golfers know all too well.

"She is human," Nilsmark said, smiling. "Thank God."

Her drives were solid, but the rest of Sorenstam's game was devoid of its usual finesse.

And on the par-5 No. 7, pretty much everything went wrong. After pushing her second shot into a thicket of trees off the green, Sorenstam hit a rock and chunked her first attempt to get out. The next shot flew over the green, landing in the rough.

She chipped within 8 feet, but her putt rolled 6 inches past the hole and she finished with a double bogey.

The top 70 players and ties make the cut, and 82 were at 2-over or better. But Sorenstam has rallied before. She shares the LPGA record for biggest comeback victory, rallying from 10 shots back on the final day to win The Office Depot in 2001. *AP*

Solid finish gives Garcia 2-shot edge

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Sergio Garcia, hardly missed a shot in his round of 6-under 66, took a two-shot lead in the Wachovia Championship on Thursday and was mildly disgusted.

Masters champion Tiger Woods made mental blunders and was relieved to shoot 70.

In a round where five guys atop the leaderboard made a mess of the final hole, Garcia finished with a 5-iron into a cool breeze that stopped 6 feet away on the 486-yard ninth hole, giving him a birdie he felt was overdue—even if it was his eighth of the day.

GARCIA AP

"I'm happy about the round," Garcia said. "But at the same time, I look at it and say, 'This could have been amazing.' I didn't make as many putts as I deserved. I could have easily shot 61 or 62—easily could have shot that."

He broke by two shots the back-nine record at Quail Hollow with a 30, then turned a brilliant day into a minor struggle with back-to-back bogeys, including a 30-inch miss for par on the second hole.

Still, it was enough to give him a two-shot lead over defending champion Joey Sindelar, Kenny Perry, Patrick Sheehan and Richard Johnson of Sweden, and plenty of momentum heading into the second round.

Woods had reason to smile about his 70.

Playing for the first time since his playoff victory at Augusta National three weeks ago, he didn't commit himself to shots and looked out of sync playing his first five holes in 2 over par.

He recovered, only to lose ground with a poor club selection on the par-5 seventh—a 7-iron from 191 yards that came up short into the water. Still, he finished with back-to-back birdies, including a 40-footer on the ninth hole.

Jim Furyk was in the lead until a double bogey from the bunker on the 18th hole, dropping him to a 69. Sindelar hit a driver and two 3-woods on the 18th and made bogey. Johnson dropped two shots on the last two holes, Perry missed a 4-foot par putt and Sheehan took double bogey on the ninth.

Vijay Singh three-putted for bogey three times for a 70. Phil Mickelson, also playing for the first time since the Masters, twice hit spectators with his tee shots and shot 71.

"On my last hole, I hit a gentleman on the head, and he had a decent amount of blood," Mickelson said. "Boy, I feel terrible." *AP*

Henin-Hardenne tests Sharapova

BERLIN—Maria Sharapova's bid for the German Open title and No. 1 ranking will have to go through a former champion and world No. 1 in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Justine Henin-Hardenne, the world's top-ranked woman only eight months ago until she was sidelined by a virus and injuries, will carry a 13-match winning streak into her showdown with Sharapova.

In March at Miami, they met for the first time, and Henin-Hardenne was pleased to stretch the Russian teenager to three sets in her comeback tournament. Since then Henin-Hardenne hasn't lost, and her confidence and strength has ballooned with clay-court titles in the United States and Warsaw.

"Clay is my best surface, but it won't be that easy," Henin-Hardenne said. "We know how good and strong Sharapova is. She's very confident right now."

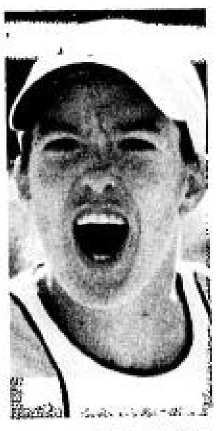
Sharapova breezed past China's Shuai Peng, 6-2, 6-1 on Thursday, but the 18-year-old world No. 2 has never won any quarterfinal on clay.

If she gets by Henin-Hardenne, at least another former No. 1 from Belgium won't be in her way, after Kim Clijsters hurt her knee and had to retire while leading Switzerland's Patty Schnyder, 7-6 (4), 5-6.

Clijsters was waiting for theswelling to reduce in her right knee before she could find out whether she'll be able to play at the French Open starting on May 23.

"I just have to wait two days for the MRI. Maybe I'll be back to play the French Open. I can only hope for the best. It's very frustrating," said Clijsters. *AP*

SHARAPOVA REUTERS



HENIN-HARDENNE

RODDICK: Intentions noble, results bad. REUTERS

Roddick sporting gesture backfires

ROME—Last year, Andy Roddick helped about a dozen people escape a fatal hotel fire.

This year, Roddick did his moral duty on the tennis court at the Rome Masters.

The American's act of good sportsmanship cost him a spot in the quarterfinals Thursday, allowing Fernando Verdasco to rally for a 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3), 6-4 victory.

The top-ranked Roddick was leading 5-3 in the second set and had triple match point when Verdasco appeared to hit a double fault. The line judge called the ball out but Roddick said the ball was in after checking the mark left in the clay, giving Verdasco an ace.

"I didn't think it was anything extraordinary," Roddick said. "The umpire would have done the same thing if he came down and looked. I just saved him the trip. He's working hard up there."

Verdasco then saved two more match points, held serve, and broke Roddick to even the second set at 5-5. The 21-year-old Spaniard broke to win the first game of the third set and maintained the lead to close out the match in 2 hours, 32 minutes.

"Maybe another player wouldn't have done like Andy," Verdasco said, adding that he would have argued the call if Roddick hadn't given him the point.

Before last year's Masters, a fire at a Rome hotel where players were staying killed three guests.

Roddick was staying on the sixth floor and several guests on the floor above were trapped by the fire. Roddick waited on his balcony, with outstretched arms, to catch fellow guests as they jumped down, before using fire truck ladders to reach the ground.

Verdasco, meanwhile, advanced to a quarterfinal matchup with 2004 French Open runner-up Guillermo Coria, who breezed past Italian wild card Davide Sanguinetti, 6-0, 6-4.

In Thursday's night match, 18-year-old Rafael Nadal extended his winning streak to 14 straight matches with a 6-3, 6-1 win over 11th-seeded Guillermo Canas. *AP*

Sherwood Hills golf tourney gets going

ONE HUNDRED fifty members and guests, comprising 75 teams, troop to Trece Martirez, Cavite, today to compete in the much-awaited third Invitational Cup 2005, a two-man team competition, slated at the posh Sherwood Hills Golf Club.

Member Pong Manuel goes for his second championship with new partner Raymund Sangil. Manuel's old teammate, Mark Gruba, is not playing due to an injury.

Club chair Robert John Sobrepeña leads the hitting of the ceremonial ball along with special guests Trece Martirez Mayor Jun Sagun and Vice Mayor Alvin Mojica.

Great giveaways await the participants of the one-day event that has MRT Dev. Co., Club Leisure Management, Isuzu Phils., Corporate Air and Timberpro as major sponsors.

Asia Pacific Golf, Kork Inc., Industrial Waste Systems, Mapecon, Berna Int'l Trading, Information Professionals Inc., Sports Specialists Worldwide, Custom Clubmakers, CJH Dev. Co, Golden Oats and Smart are the other sponsors.

The sports and games committee, headed by chair Freddie Mendoza, decided to use three scoring formats every six holes, namely, scramble, alternate shot and best ball.

"This way, the tournament will be exciting because players would have to constantly adjust their play and strategy throughout the round," Mendoza said.

Attractive raffle prizes are up for grabs and signature trophies for the overall winner and Division 1 and Division 2 champions will be handed out in tonight's Western Night-themed awards ceremony.

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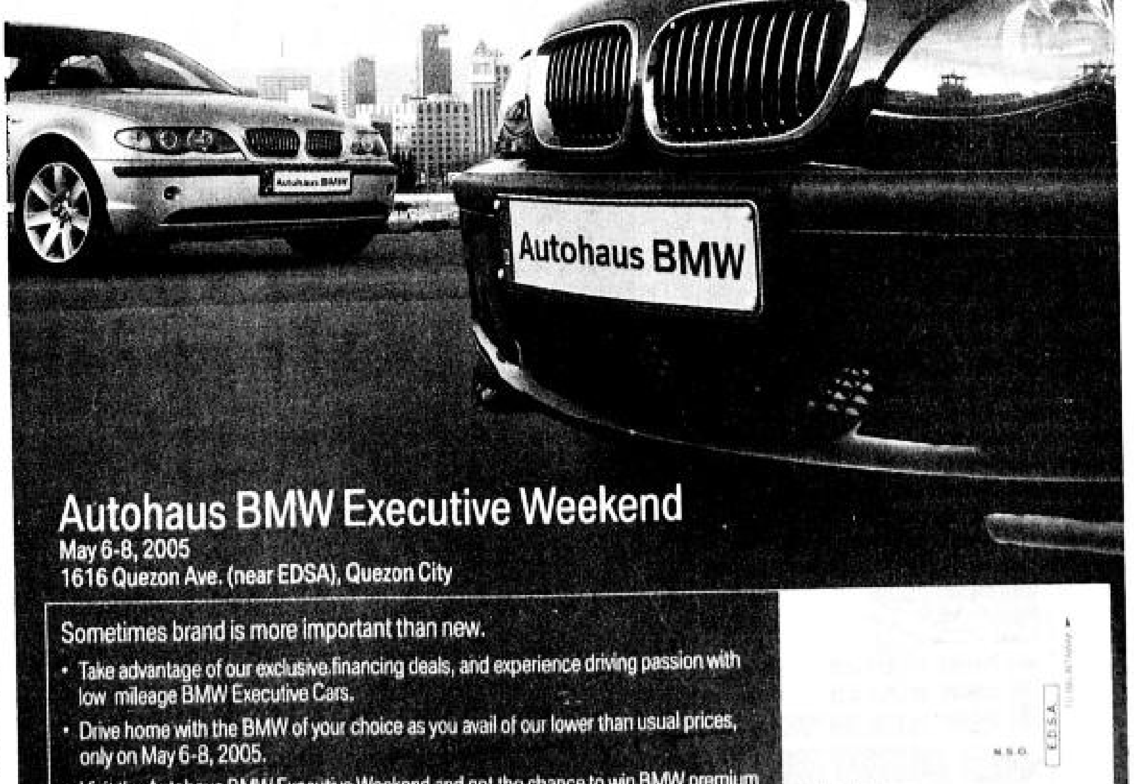

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SPORTS

CATCH Santos, (top left) and Bong Nery ruled the recent AAD Sportfishing Tournament in Cagayan. PGFF president Bobby Garcia (top right) shows off the heaviest fish of the event, a 26.9 kg dogtooth tuna. Also shown are the other anglers and their 3rd day catch.

Nery-Santos tops AAD fishing meet

FORMER Angler of the Year (AOY) Bong Nery and Catch Santos, a pro fishing guide, emerged the champion boat team of the recent AAD Sportfishing Tournament in San Vicente, Cagayan.

Nery and Santos hooked 82.10 kg, including Santos' 24.2 kg sailfish. Santos moved past Edmund Lim in the AOY race.

Philippine Game Fishing Foundation president Bobby Garcia and Rey Buencamino placed second with a haul of 78.60 kg. Garcia's 26.90 kg. dogtooth tuna surpassed the 13-year-old RP record of 25.52 kg on a 30-lb line.

Lito Tanseco and Nonie Capili placed third with 64.65 kg. Mario Tayag, alone in his boat, hooked 62.95 kg out of the 400.8 kg landed by the 14 anglers.

Other winners of this mado A. Dy-backed event are Lito Macapinlac, for 11.9 kg heaviest dorado and Tanseco and Capili for identical heaviest wahoo 7.0 kg.

Mikola fastest in AF3 trial runs

GUANGDONG, China—Indonesian driver Ananda Mikola again logged the fastest time in practice runs Friday, but if this was his way of intimidating the opposition, he may only have succeeded in nettling top rival and defending champion Christian Jones of Australia.

Mikola clocked one minute and 33.937 seconds around the 4.3-km Zhuhai International Circuit as he revved up for the qualifying session Saturday of the third and fourth legs of the 2005 Asian Formula Three Grand Prix.

The overall leader with 40 points, Mikola is gunning for another sweep of the weekend races at the Formula One track which is hosting the series for the first time.

Mikola, racing for Fastron Racing with Threebond, vastly improved on his clocking of 1:34.9 in Thursday's initial practice runs and kept the rest of the field on his rearview mirror despite doing only 12 laps.

Jones, running second overall with 30 points after two runner-up finishes at the Batangas Racing Circuit last month, was third quickest behind Mikola and Filipino Dado Peña after Friday's practice runs.

Jones clocked 1:34.608 and said he's ready to take on Mikola, Peña and even Tyson Sy, the other bright, young Filipino prospect in the premier Open class.

Peña, whose series of misfortunes cost him a podium finish in Batangas, turned in 1:34.453, the second fastest time for the day, despite some minor problems in his Ambi Pur Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia car.

Sy, driving for Speedtech Asia, checked in fourth in 1:34.635 and expressed confidence he'll be able to adjust before the qualifying race.

The third leg of the AF3 series will be fired off at 2 p.m. Saturday with the race results determining the grid position for Sunday morning's fourth leg. Race results can be seen on www.asianf3.net.

Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Denso Hanjin JF3, mirrored half-brother Mikola's performance, logging the best time of 1:37.173 in the Promotions class for cars with chassis built in 1999 and older.

Focus on safety was again stressed by AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña during the drivers' meeting immediately after the second practice run.

Also among the top finishers after the second of three practice runs Friday were Irishman John O'Hara of Fujitsu Ten Toyota Team Toms, fifth in 1:34.984, followed by James Winslow of Britain (Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO) 1:35.501, tied with teammate and 2003 champion Pepon Marave of the Philippines and Rodolfo Avila of Macau

One more silver for RP tracksters

MIDDLE distance runner Medel Dique captured the silver medal while field events returnee Rosie Villarito and the women's 4X400 relay squad picked up bronzes on Thursday as team Philippines capped its participation in the Thailand Track and Field Open. Dique, a gold medal prospect for the Southeast Asian Games, hounded South Korea's Jae Hun Lee in the 800-m run turning in a 1:50.99 against the latter's 1:49.54 and frustrated a 1-2 wind up for Korea by upending Kyong Don Euh (1:51.09). Villarito, unable to impress coaches in women's boxing, discovered she has better future in javelin throw, finishing behind two Thai counterparts on a 49.54 meter effort, way off the winning distance of 54.74 but close to the silver that was won with 49.58m. Silver medalist Grace Milgar anchored RP's 4X400 relay team that included Meriam Fortunato, Maricel Sibog and Sharon Jizmundo to a 3:47.63 behind SEAG rival Vietnam (3:44.46) and powerhouse Kazakhstan (3:37.63).

The Filipino track and field squad returned the favor to their sponsor—Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor)—with a total haul of 11 medals, one gold courtesy of javelin throw king Danilo Fresnido, six silvers and four bronze medals.

The other medalists are Rene Herrera (1,500m silver, 3,000m steeplechase, silver), Ernie Candelario (400m silver), Mercedita Manipol (10,000m silver), Julius Nierras (400m hurdles bronze), and Jimar Aing (400m bronze).

CORTEZA: Raring to make up for RP Team debacle in Taiwan 9-ball.

Corteza vying in Manila tilt

LEE Van Corteza, last year's Manila leg winner, would be very frustrated if he fails to make it to the qualifying tournament for the next leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour.

Corteza, the 2003 SEA Games double gold winner, failed to earn a ticket to the Taiwan leg where all Filipino cue masters fell in the run-up to the semifinals of the three-year-old tour sponsored by San Miguel Beer and organized by ESPN Sports.

Corteza, a native of Davao, has vowed to give it all for a chance to defend his title on June 3-5 at Robinson's Galleria.

The event will use a knockout system and race-to-11 winner's break format.

Also expected to cast their lots in the event are Marlon Manalo, Ronnie Alcano, Warren Kiamco, Antonio "Ga-Ga" Gabica, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Leonardo Andam. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

RP powerlifters snare 2 gold medals in India

THE THREE-MAN Philippine powerlifting team brought home two gold and one silver medals in a successful stint in the recent Asian Powerlifting Championships held in Alleppy, Kerala, India.

Richie Rosales and Eddie Torres provided the gold medals in the 75 kg weight (seniors division) and 100 kg weight classes (Master 1 division), while the lone silver was courtesy of newcomer Ronnie Martinez (Master 2 division).

Around 200 participants from Iran, Iraq, Nepal, Taiwan, Japan, Oman, Korea, United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Hong Kong and India saw action in the meet.

Rosales, a fitness trainer and recipient of a citation from the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) last year, bested five other bets in his division, hoisting 413 lbs. in the benchpress event.

Torres on the other hand, lifted a total of 1,664 lbs (squat, benchpress and deadlift events). He was also awarded the Strong Man of Asia trophy for being the best lifter in his division, winning the honor over 30 other participants.

11th Subic Int'l Triathlon lures more than 200 bets

MORE than just honor and fame will be at stake in this Sunday's 11th Subic International Triathlon which has attracted over 200 local and foreign entries.

National champion Arland Macasieb and RP teammates Noel Salvador, Eldy Banluta, Mikki Quilala, women's national titlist Sandra Araullo, Ani de Leon, Mimi Lucas, LC Langit and Alexandra Ganzon will try to fend off the foreign bets and eye slots for the RP triathlon team to the coming Southeast Asian Games at the same time.

TRAP president Tom Carrasco said the three qualifying races for local athletes vying for the SEAG team are the Bayawan National Triathlon Championship, the Subic International Triathlon and the Asian Triathlon Championship in Singapore in July.

Aside from SBMA, other major sponsors of this event that features Elite Open, Under 23 Elite, junior sprint and age categories are Speedo, PowerBar, David's Salon and Skin n Face Spa, Stronghold Insurance, Asian Centre for Insulation, PSC, Fitness First and Smart Addict Mobile. Legenda is hosting tonight's pasta dinner.

Nierras, Rivilla co-managers

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation recently appointed Ernie Nierras and Cathy Rivilla as co-managers of the Southeast Asian Games women's team.

The pair will be working in coordination with PFF's VP for SEAGames-National Teams, Tony Chua of Red Bull.

The squad is currently quartered in a house at the Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa. They train morning and evening at the Cuenca Park football field and play tune-up matches Wednesdays and Fridays at the Philsports pitch in Pasig City.

Nierras and Rivilla are tasked with the administrative and logistical requirements of the national squad.

Eighteen players will be named shortly to the RP squad that will be participating in the "Pre-SEA Games 2005 Quadrangular Tournament" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 20-27.

Head coach for the RP XI is Marlon Maro.

Speed O'War European Union Cup favorite

LOCALLY bred galloper Speed O'War matches strides with a select field of speedballs as they compete in the European Union Cup, marquee race of the scheduled European Union Racing Festival slated today at the Santa Ana Park.

Fresh from a rousing wire-to-wire victory last Tuesday at the same track, the 4-year-old campaigner will be challenged by a field of locals and imports battling over 1,500 meters in the second leg of the Santa Ana Park Challenge Run.

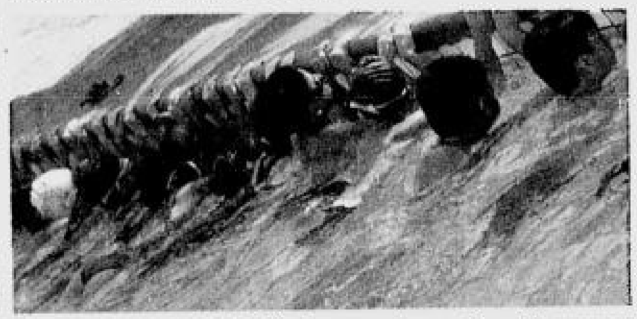
Speed O'War hopes to finally bag the Santa Ana Park Challenge trophy after losing as favorite to Master King in the inaugural Challenge Run two weeks ago.

Other challengers are filly Cat's Gold, winner of the recent PSA Cup, and import Heroics. The other contenders for the European Union Cup include Empire Cat and stablemates Hellfire and Marque.

SPORTSWATCH

C. Lhuillier bats for 4th title

CEBUANA Lhuillier's slo-pitch softball team guns for its 4th straight international title in the 22nd Southeast Asia International SLi-pitch Softball Tournament which started yesterday in Jakarta, Indonesia. Lasting up to Sunday at the Senayan Sports Complex, the tournament has attracted 22 top commercial and club teams from the region and other parts of the world. Leading the opposition is defending champion Korea Guzzlers, whom Cebuana Lhuillier defeated in the final of the Bangkok International Slo-pitch League (BISL), and the host team. Cebuana Lhuillier also won back to back PANGAEA Cup Super Division titles last year, making the Filipinos, mentored by Davy Lan Perez, one of the top seeded teams in the Jakarta tournament.



SWIMMING PROGRAM: Milo is sponsoring a nationwide summer learn-to-swim program under former Olympian and Asian Games champion Ral Rosario. Young participants enjoy the lessons under the watchful eyes of instructors. The next clinics start May 8.

50 fights in Las Piñas 3-cocker

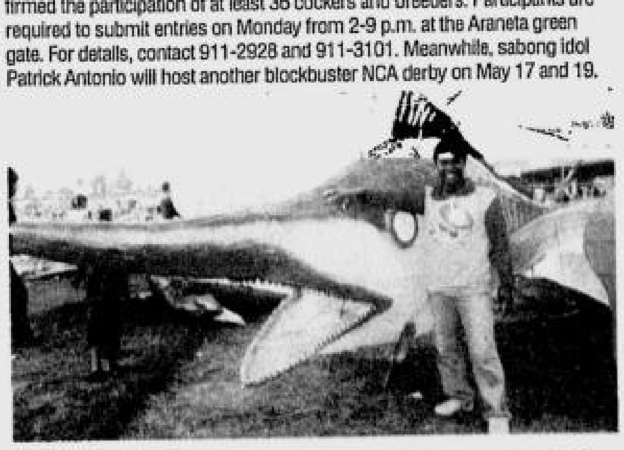
MORE than 50 exciting fights are lined up in another 3-cock derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 today at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. Ed Hernandez of Batangas, JR Pasay and Allan Vetsin of Parañaque have teamed up for this event which stakes a cash prize of P300,000. Entries will be accepted until 2 p.m. For details, contact 873-1040 and 874-3910. Regular hackfights are also scheduled at LPC from Monday to Sunday, said pit manager Alex Tobias. Meanwhile, the second edition of "Big Event 6-Cock Derby" is set next Saturday, May 14. A select group of 30 bigtime cockers have confirmed their entries as of yesterday.

Velo Challenge winds up at Amoranto

THE First Philippine Velo Challenge winds up with its 10th day of racing today at the Amoranto Velodrome with a close fight for the men's Elite crown seen between Tagaytay's Nilo Estayo and Quezon City's Paterno Curtan, both members of the national team, in the event co-presented by the First Gentleman's Foundation of Atty. Jose Miguel Arroyo and Air21 (Sagot Ko, Padala Mo!)-Tour Pilipinas Inc. Another national, Marites Bitbit, has the women's Elite crown virtually in the bag. The races are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon. The awards ceremonies will also be held today.

NCA presents May 10 derby

ANOTHER big crowd is expected at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum as the National Cockers Association (NCA) presents another bigtime 7-cock derby on May 10 and 12. The 3-cock elimination round is slated on Tuesday, while the championship is on Thursday. Derby hosts Boy Marzo and 2005 World Slasher Cup co-champions JV Magsaysay and Ruel Ricafort have confirmed the participation of at least 36 cockers and breeders. Participants are required to submit entries on Monday from 2-9 p.m. at the Araneta green gate. For details, contact 911-2928 and 911-3101. Meanwhile, sabong idol Patrick Antonio will host another blockbuster NCA derby on May 17 and 19.



ONE of the innovative entries in the 15th Bear Brand Kitefest held at the football grounds of Davao City recently. The event saw 1,555 kites fly, breaking the 1,498 entries in Cagayan de Oro two weeks ago.

SATURDAY Special
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Gary and Randy honor their mothers

By Jocelyn Valle

GOD can't be everywhere, so He created mothers," so goes a poster message. Find out how this is true for Gary Valenciano and Randy Santiago:

For Gary, the biggest trial that he's overcome with the help of his mother, Grimilda Ortiz, was his being diagnosed a diabetic in 1979.

"And that year had many other trials for the entire family," he recounts. "We had just moved to Orlando, Florida, and ajusting to a sickness while adapting to a new environment was a major trial we all had to face.

"Though we were not complete as a family, we found strength in one another."

Latin rhythm

Mr. Pure Energy shares that his mother, being Puerto Rican, has the Latin rhythm that he tries to show off whenever he's on stage. "She used to sing, you know. She was a part of the Spanish theater in the Philippines. It's from her that I learned how to sing from the soul!"

How does he describe his relationship with his mother now? "It is a blessed relationship, one that is truly open," he replies. "It's also outrageous, because there's a lot of laughter with her. She makes sure that everyone in the family gets a little dose of her wit everyday."

When he travels around the East Coast, he drops by Orlando to visit his mother. "I call her more often now as I know she loves to hear from her children all the time," he shares.

Being a parent himself, to two boys and one girl, Gary observes that he has picked up some aspects of his mother's parenting style. "When I was younger, my mom was quite strict with us. This I also practiced when my kids were younger."

Opportunity

"When I entered show biz, I knew she was torn, because she wanted me to finish my school. But, I guess she also knew that the door of opportunity was opening up for me—a door that doesn't stay open too long for most.

"I believe I've been able to survive show biz with the right attitude and intentions largely because of what she's taught me as a kid. My children are older now, and like my mom, I want them to spread their wings—while guiding them every step of the way!"

ORTIZ. Gary's mom taught him the importance of discipline—and laughter.

"She was here a few weeks ago for a month and a half, and we had a chance to talk a bit about my kids," Gary continues. "She stressed the need to have more time with them, to teach them to watch out more for each other. We talked about the importance of discipline, especially for children as young as mine are.

Serious moments

"My relationship with my kids is also filled with laughter. Somehow, when serious moments come and we need to talk, the fact that they know their father and mother love them unconditionally helps tremendously.

"I make sure that this family is not here to merely exist. It has a purpose, and as a family, it shall be accomplished. The best thing is that we are open about our love for each other—our struggles, our concerns, and our faith

GARY/ A2-7

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Rafael Rosell bares and dares in 'Bikini Open'

By Andy Bais

ROSELL. Went through an audition before winning role in Seiko movie.

AMONG *tisoy* celebrities in local show business, Rafael Rosell easily stands out. Barely four years in the business, he now speaks Filipino with nary an indication that he was born in Norway and lived in that European country for 18 years. When he arrived here in 2001 to try his luck in the movies, the first thing he did was to learn how to speak the local language.

"I took up Tagalog lessons and read out loud Tagalog materials for at least an hour a day. I joined Filipino theater productions. Sa theater *kasi, di ka pwedeng mag*-buckle. So, *inu-ulit-ulit ko ang pagbigkas ng* words to polish my Tagalog," he reveals.

Roots

Aside from a show biz career, another reason why Rafael decided to stay here was to explore his parents' roots. His dad is Cebuano and his mom Bicolana. The couple is now based in Abu Dhabi. "I have to learn how to speak the language to bring my family even closer together," Rafael adds.

Rafael has appeared in ABS-CBN shows, the latest of which was "Marina," where he played Claudine Barretto's love interest. He has acted in films produced by Star Cinema, but he feels that his full potential as an actor has yet to be tapped.

So, when he was considered for a challenging role in Seiko Films' upcoming movie, "Bikini Open," he became excited at the prospect of finally veering away from his wholesome image.

Indeed, he got the role, but not without going through an audition. "*Nag*-screen test *pa ako,* because director Jeffrey Jeturian wanted to make sure *na bagay ako sa* role," he states.

Wholesome

Seiko Films producer Robbie Tan even conducted a survey as to who would qualify for Rafael's character in the movie. "Among Star Circle male stars, Rafael was one of two names that came out on top. We finally got him because of his wholesome image, and because he is also physically appealing to teenagers.

"I felt he had what it took to be a good actor. Our hunch was proven right. *Maganda ang* projection *niya* onscreen," Robbie enthuses.

Pleased

Rafael is pleased with his performance in "Bikini Open:" "*Ang sarap ng* feeling, *kasi palagay ko naibigay ko ang hinihingi ng* role. It's not something *na ikakahiya ko*. I want people to see this film, because it says a lot about the state of broadcast journalism in the country," the actor beams.

He has high hopes that "Bikini Open" will hit it big at the box office: "With Jeffrey Jeturian at the helm, and Diana Zubiri, Francine Prieto and Nina Ricci Alagao leading the cast, I'm confident *na magiging* successful *ito,*" he predicts.

Evangeline Lilly finds her way in 'Lost'

By Nestor U. Torre

LILLY. Three-week stint in the Philippines with Christian group.

AXN's new show, "Lost," topbills Evangeline Lilly. If the name doesn't ring a bell, don't blame it on your lack of show biz savvy.

Fact is, Lilly is a spanking-new talent with hardly any professional acting credits to her name before she was picked out of a multitude of auditionees to play the plum part on "Lost."

She must have a lot going for her to have impressed series creator J.J. Abrams ("Alias," "Felicity") to react so favorably to the audition tape that she had audaciously sent him.

She does! She looks great, is up to the show's rigorous physical demands, and has that magical "something" that producers and directors keep looking for in new actors, but seldom find.

Audition tape

Lilly shares that, after she was cast as Kate in "Lost," she asked Abrams why he took a chance on her. His answer: "There was one line on the audition tape that you did in a certain way—and I said to myself: 'She gets it!'"

(Interesting trivia: The line was cut from the show's two-hour pilot episode, but Lilly was hired, anyway.)

"Lost" follows the lives of a motley group of plane crash survivors on a remote Pacific island. This basic situation makes surviving terribly difficult for them, so Lilly suspects that her adventurous background as a rock climber and kayaker could have given her an edge in being cast as Kate, a tough, self-assured character stuck in a hostile world.

"I kind of embodied who Kate is in who I really am," Lilly astutely observes.

In relation to that, Filipino viewers of the show will be interested to know that when Lilly was studying international relations at the University of British Columbia in Canada, she did a three-week stint in the Philippines with a Christian group.

While here, Lilly lived in a nipa hut, learned how to climb coconut trees, and adapted well to life in the tropics. Little did she know that, way back then, she was already priming herself up for her first big TV role!

Itinerant youth

Another early mode of preparation was Lilly's itinerant youth: Her family kept moving from place to place in Canada when she was a child, and this forced her to learn how to adapt to new situations quickly.

In terms of thespic preparation, Lilly had only two years of junior-high drama, one high school play, a couple of years of work as an extra in Vancouver, fleeting appearances in "Chronicles of Riddick" and "White Chicks," and a few commercials.

Her resume also lists an appearance on the Stephen King mini-series, "Kingdom Hospital," which aired on AXN last year. That sounds impressive, but Lilly pooh-poohs it by revealing what it really consisted of:

"Actually, I didn't act in that. In one scene, I'm sleeping in a bed, and get shot in the head. I wasn't acting, I was sleeping! I might as well have been an extra."

Well, Evangeline Lilly is doing a whale of a lot more acting on "Lost" these days, so her lean and hungry days are definitely over. Catch "Lost" on AXN every Thursday at 9 p.m.

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My dear Mrs. Ledesma

By Behn Cervantes

LEDESMA. Her comments were never perfunctory.

PURITA Kalaw-Ledesma was always Mrs. Ledesma to me—a woman of stature who had accomplished a lot of good things for kindred artistic souls.

I first met her as the mother of Rita, a co-actor at the UP Dramatic Club under Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero. She would go backstage to congratulate us acting tyros. Her compliments were never perfunctory, because she acknowledged our artistic aspirations.

Parties

I would be invited by Rita to parties held in her home at the end of Roxas blvd. There, I met her siblings Coni, Ada and Wally.

Just before the declaration of Martial Law, I started to see Mrs. Ledesma more often, because she was sympathetic to the cause of nationalism in the arts, and the demands of aspiring young proletarian artists. She was a formidable and reliable ally to have during those difficult times.

Mrs. Ledesma remained the dignified lady who was the moving spirit in the development of the Philippine visual arts. She had, after all, established the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) and, later, wrote and won acclaim for definitive books on the visual arts.

Professional

Despite the fact that we had become quite close, she was always Mrs. Ledesma to me because she epitomized the accomplished professional.

I noted that aspiring as well as established artists always referred to her as Mrs. Ledesma. Or, they would sometimes refer to her as Mrs. Purita Villanueva Kalaw Ledesma, which also revealed her social lineage.

I recall having dinner with Ada in Paris in 1979, where Philip Mabilangan, her husband, was then Ambassador. I had to meet Coni and Louie in Rome, but I was delayed by a day. Coni said it was a pity I was delayed because Mrs. Ledesma had planned to hide behind a pillar at the train station to make me *bulaga*! This warm and humorous aspect of hers, I had noted through the years. She often laughed heartily when I made irreverent remarks.

Growth

On occasions when we would intermittently meet, it was touching that she was aware of the causes I was involved in. She was still interested in the growth of the theater tyro she met many years ago:

"Behn, how nice to see you!," she would say ever so warmly. "And, how nice to see you, Mrs. Ledesma!," I would reply with love, respect and admiration.

I will miss her so. Naturally, so will the countless other artists she touched through the years.

A short portion from the novena said during her wake earlier this week assuages the sorrow we feel at her demise: "Thank you, dear Lord, for what Purita was to us all—for the privilege of knowing her, for learning and growing with her. Though we will surely miss her, we accept Your Divine Will completely."

Rest well, my dear Mrs. Ledesma. I love you so.

Lessons from the sun

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

DURING the summer season, we become doubly aware of the existence of the sun, because we feel its intense heat and warmth. In Vedic literatures, the sun is used in analogies and explanations. We would like to share with you those valuable insights with references to the sun:

In the Bhagavad-gita, the Supreme Person states, "The splendor of the sun, which dissipates the darkness of the world, comes from Me. The splendor of the moon and fire are also from Me." 13:12

The Supreme Person is the source of splendor and beauty. The beautiful things around us simply reflect a portion of His unlimited splendor.

Living entity

"The sun illuminates the universe. So does the living entity, the one within the body, that illuminates the entire being by consciousness." 13:34

"The presence of the soul can be detected due to the consciousness that pervades the body. Just as sunlight tells us that the sun is in the sky, similarly consciousness indicates the presence of the soul within the body.

"One should meditate upon the Supreme Person as the one who knows everything. He is luminous like the sun and, being transcendental, is beyond material nature." 8:9

"He is the source of light in luminous objects. He is beyond the darkness of matter. He is knowledge—its object and goal." 13:18

Vision

Where there is light, there is vision. The Supreme Being is the source of light. With Him providing brightness, we are able to have a clear vision of our life's true destination, and the path that leads to it. The goal of existence is to attain the spiritual realm, and the path is revealed to those who sincerely beg guidance from the Supreme!

US horror films boom amid war, anxiety

LOS ANGELES—Even in an age of war and terrorism—or maybe because of it—there are few things as comforting as a rousing Hollywood horror film, psychiatrists and moviemakers say.

This year, the studios are releasing no fewer than 12 scary flicks during the summer movie season, starting with "House of Wax" and continuing with titles like "High Tension," "Dark Water" and "The Skeleton Key."

Tally

The tally is roughly double last year's, and far above any season in recent years, according to box-office trackers.

Analysts say the sudden horror flick boom reflects the desire of American audiences to escape the real-world violence from Iraq and elsewhere that has featured so prominently in newspaper headlines and TV news. And Hollywood is only too happy to oblige.

"They allow you to engage in an experience that is, more or less, under your control," said Dr. Charles Goodstein of New York University Medical Center and past president of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York.

Soothing factor

"It follows, then, that the viewing of a horror movie can act as a kind of soothing factor," he added. "It allows you to have—in a microcosm—a situation that is very frightening, yet you can leave the theater alive and well!"

Reuters

WINFREY. Nobody does a homage on TV quite like her.

Oprah pays tribute to moms

By Noelani Torre

OPRAH Winfrey has been treating us to memorable stories about mothers these past weeks. With Mother's Day fast approaching, we've been inundated with all sorts of tributes to mothers on TV and practically everywhere else. Nobody does a tribute show quite like Oprah, though, as we we've been able to see recently:

She's been paying homage to all sorts of moms in her "Oprah Prime Time" show, from celebrity mothers to just plain "great" moms. In one episode, for example, she featured the latter variety, and her guests were "voted in," so to speak, by their own children, and by other people.

First guests

The audience started pulling out their hankies as the first guests—a mother and her adopted son, now an adult—told their story. Michael, the son, was a child born of rape. His 16-year-old biological mother was unable to care for him, and thus Gladys, herself already a single mother with two other children, wholeheartedly took over.

"My mother is a woman who believes that love is a verb," said Michael. What a child sees is pretty much what a child becomes. If it were not for my mother, I would probably be in jail, or dead. Her example of love for me has saved my life!"

An even more dramatic tale was that of Soycheat and Scott Ling. When Cambodia was still under the bloody rule of the Khmer Rouge, Soycheat escaped with her children from a slave labor camp and brought them to safety by making the dangerous journey from Cambodia to the Thai border. She helped them survive all that—including an abusive husband in America—and it is something that her son Scott deeply appreciates.

Values

"There's a saying in the Navy or in the military: 'an officer and a gentleman,'" said the Naval Academy midshipman. "I feel the Naval Academy will make me into a good officer, and with the values my mom taught me—respect, pride and compassion—I'll leave as an officer and a gentleman. She's made me into the man I am today."

The other featured guests had more unusual life situations. One involved an open adoption, with the birth mother deciding to pay tribute to her son's adoptive mother, calling her "the perfect mother for my son." Another unusual situation concerned an ex-wife, Connie, who wrote to Oprah about her children's new stepmom.

Thankful

"She never came across thinking that she would take my place," said Connie. "She's the type of person you enjoy being around . . . she opens the world a little bit more to them than I do. I want her to know how thankful I am that she's such a great stepmom, because she loves my girls unconditionally. She's inspired me to be a better mom myself!"

For Mother's Day itself, Oprah is featuring celebrity mom Gwyneth Paltrow in her first interview as a mother. So, watch out for that episode—and, while you're at it, don't forget to pay a tribute to your own mom!

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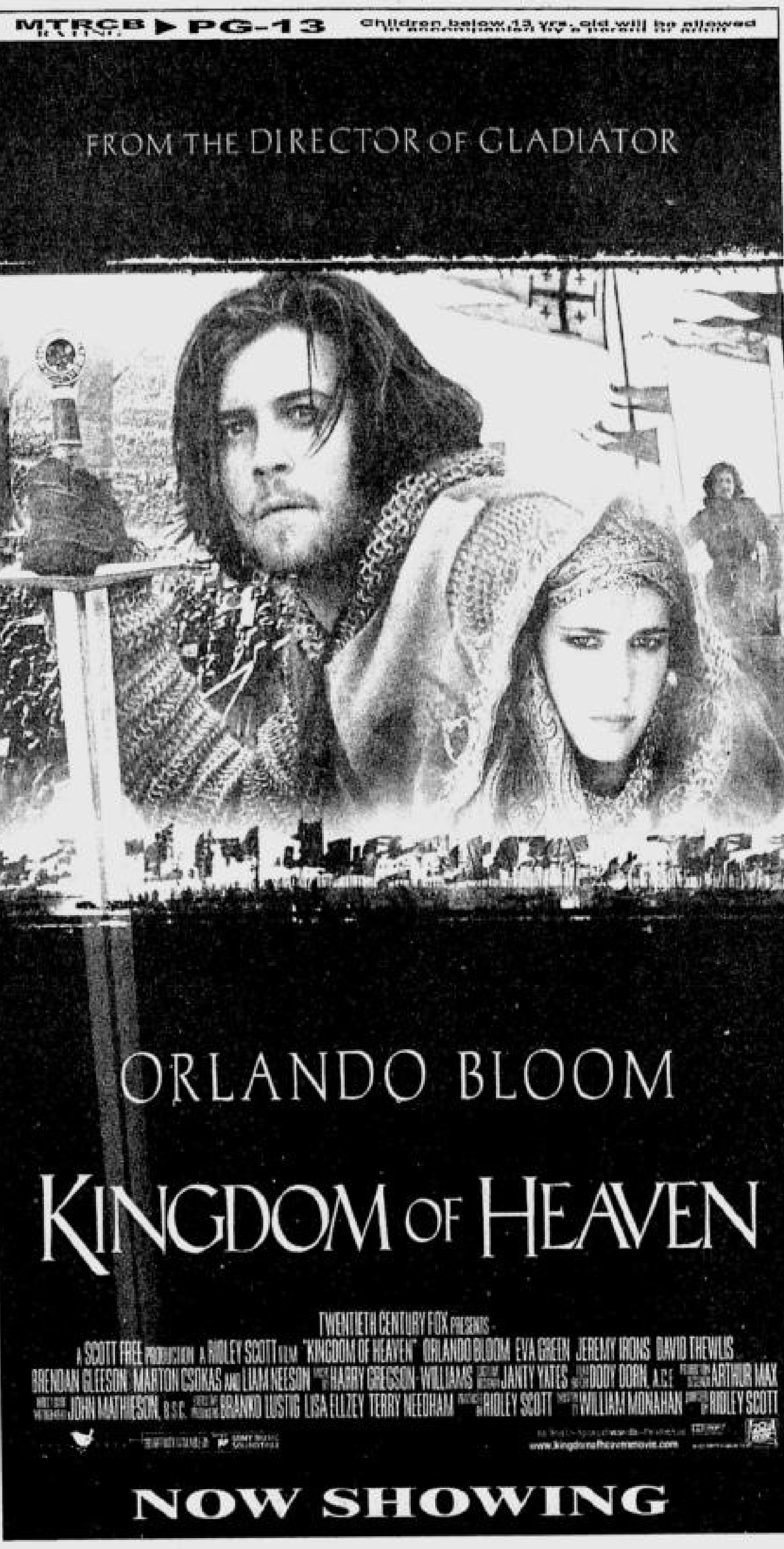
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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

'Tara na Pinoy!' on 5

ARE you stressed out and depressed? Has your life reached a plateau? Do you feel empty and have nowhere to go? Is your budget never enough, no matter how much you tighten your belt? Are you one of the millions of Filipinos seeking job placements abroad because you can't work here? Or maybe you feel A-OK, you're living a charmed life, and you just wish you can share your blessings with others?

Treat

If your answer is a resounding yes, then you're in for a treat!

On Sunday, May 22, a new show, "Tara Na Pinoy!," will start airing over ABC 5 at 12 noon. The much-admired Catholic lay evangelist, Bo Sanchez, will host the show.

"Tara na Pinoy!" is a magazine show that will change your beliefs about life, people, the country, etc.

The show aims to empower every Filipino and make him a first-world Pinoy—"Someone who thinks abundance instead of scarcity, believes in himself, and understands basic stewardship," Bo says.

Spiritual

"It's a spiritual show, but it's grounded. We will talk about money, sources of microfinancing, and business. We will feature models of entrepreneurship, and we will inspire people by showing them how others have done it. We are calling on Filipinos who have faith in God and are searching for their expression of faith in terms of helping and loving the poor. This is religion in action!" *(To be concluded)*

(Email bomarowe@info.com.ph, or log on to www.bosanchez.ph.)

SANCHEZ. His new show will change viewers' beliefs about life, people and country.

Kyla enjoys performing more than recording

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

KYLA is the *Pinay* counterpart of Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. The lyrics of her songs flow like poetry. She composed two songs in her album, "This Day" and "I'm Into You."

As a child, she was fascinated with jazz, soul and classical music. She was also intrigued with other types of musical culture.

Unlike western and R&B pop stars, Kyla is not preoccupied with fame and money: "I'm a simple person. I am transparent, honest, and shy," she shares.

Meaning

Kyla enjoys performing more than recording. She gets an adrenaline rush when her fans appreciate her songs.

She observes, "The best thing about being on tour is the meaning it gives to your music. When you sing to a crowd, you satisfy them and yourself. Being a singer is not just about having a music video on TV, it's about being on stage!"

Her most embarrassing moment on stage as a child was when she almost swallowed a firefly while she was singing. During provincial tours, it embarrasses her when the CD player jumps. "My biggest fear, though, is falling off the stage," she squeals.

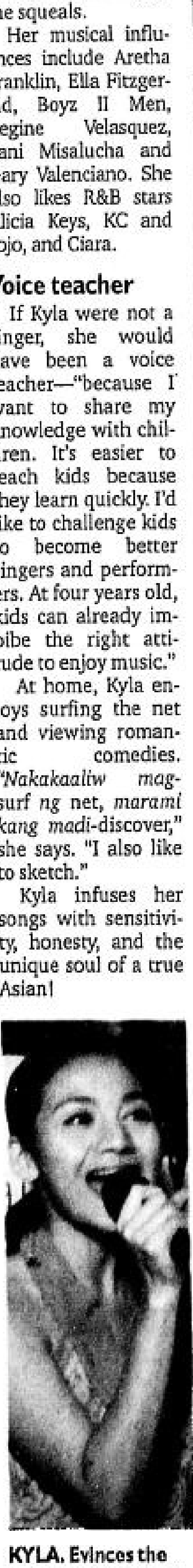
Her musical influences include Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, Boyz II Men, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha and Gary Valenciano. She also likes R&B stars Alicia Keys, KC and Jojo, and Ciara.

Voice teacher

If Kyla were not a singer, she would have been a voice teacher—"because I want to share my knowledge with children. It's easier to teach kids because they learn quickly. I'd like to challenge kids to become better singers and performers. At four years old, kids can already imbibe the right attitude to enjoy music."

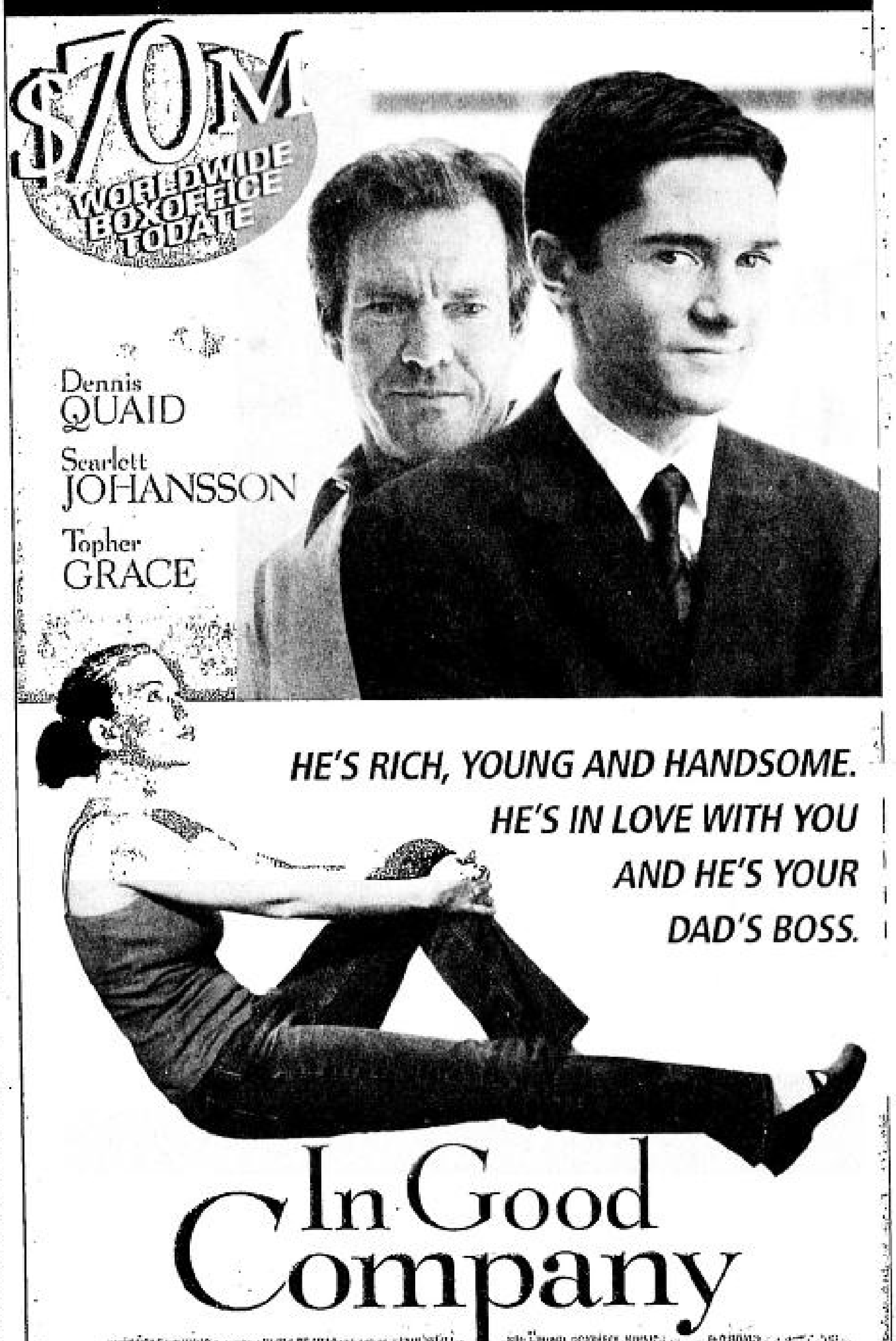
At home, Kyla enjoys surfing the net and viewing romantic comedies. "*Nakakaaliw mag-surf ng net, marami kang madi*-discover," she says. "I also like to sketch."

Kyla infuses her songs with sensitivity, honesty, and the unique soul of a true Asian!



KYLA. Evinces the unique soul of a truly Asian musical artist.

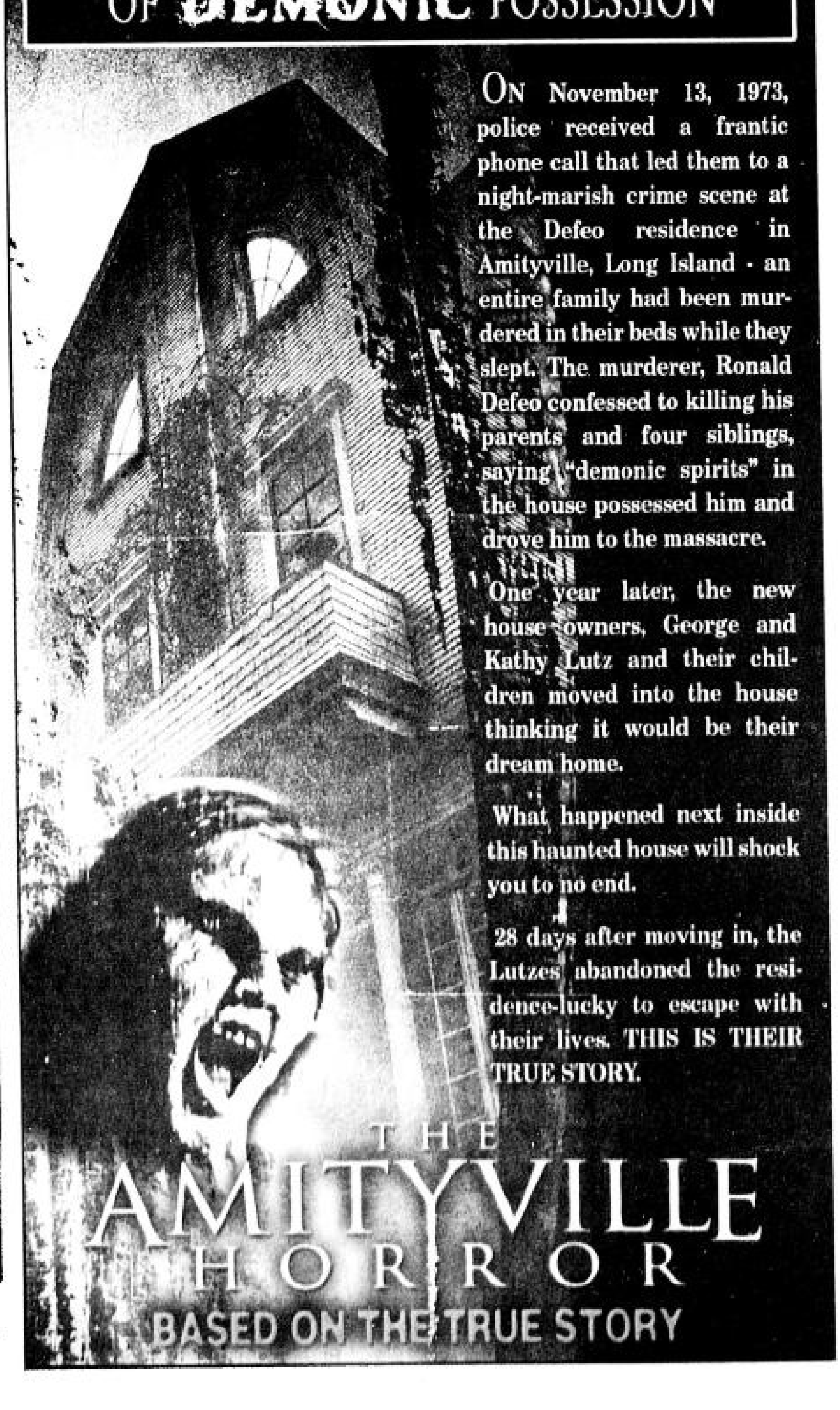
OPENS MAY 11
THE MOST ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR!



HE'S RICH, YOUNG AND HANDSOME.
HE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU
AND HE'S YOUR
DAD'S BOSS.

In Good Company

OPENS MAY 11
THE FIRST FULLY DOCUMENTED CASE OF DEMONIC POSSESSION



ON November 13, 1973, police received a frantic phone call that led them to a night-marish crime scene at the Defeo residence in Amityville, Long Island - an entire family had been murdered in their beds while they slept. The murderer, Ronald Defeo confessed to killing his parents and four siblings, saying "demonic spirits" in the house possessed him and drove him to the massacre.

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9:30 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 12:25 END
2. POOH'S HEFFALUMP
11:00 FS / 11:35 MF / 1:25 / 3:15 / 5:05 / 6:55
8:45 / 10:00 LFS / 10:35 LMF / 11:45 END
☎ 633-6976

sm megamall cinema 1
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:30 FS / 12:00 MF / 3:00 / 6:00
8:30 LFS / 9:00 LMF / 11:25 END ☎ 633-1801

sm cebu cinema 1
CINEMA 1: xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
11:00 MF / 1:06 / 3:12 / 5:18 / 7:24
9:05 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:10 END
CINEMA 3: KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:30 MF / 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45
9:10 LFS/ 9:30 LMF / 11:55 END
☎ (032) 231-3876

sm manila cinema 6
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:25 MF / 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:25
8:55 LFS / 9:05 LMF / 11:30 END
☎ 523-9240

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 SIX
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11 POOH HEFFALUMP MOVIE
12 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city fairview
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 INTERPRETER
3 GUESS WHO
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8 THE PACIFIER
9 WEDDING DATE
10 SAHARA
11 SAMARA: RING 2
12 SIX

sm city north edsa
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 RESERVED
4 SIX
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7 GUESS WHO
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city manila
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 SIX
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 SAHARA
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 GUESS WHO
8 THE INTERPRETER
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 FINDING NEVERLAND
11 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city sta. mesa
1 SAHARA
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
9 SIX
10 GUESS WHO

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 GUESS WHO
6 SAHARA
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
9 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
10 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city bicutan
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 THE JACKET
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
3 THE PACIFIER
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 SAHARA
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city baguio
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city batangas
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city dasmariñas
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city marilao
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 THE JACKET
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city bacoor
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 THE INTERPRETER
8 SAHARA

sm city lucena
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 RESERVED
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 FINDING NEVERLAND
6 THE PACIFIER
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 SAHARA

sm city iloilo
1 THE PACIFIER
2 RESERVED
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 THE JACKET
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7 RESERVED
8 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR

sm city davao
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city cagayan de oro
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

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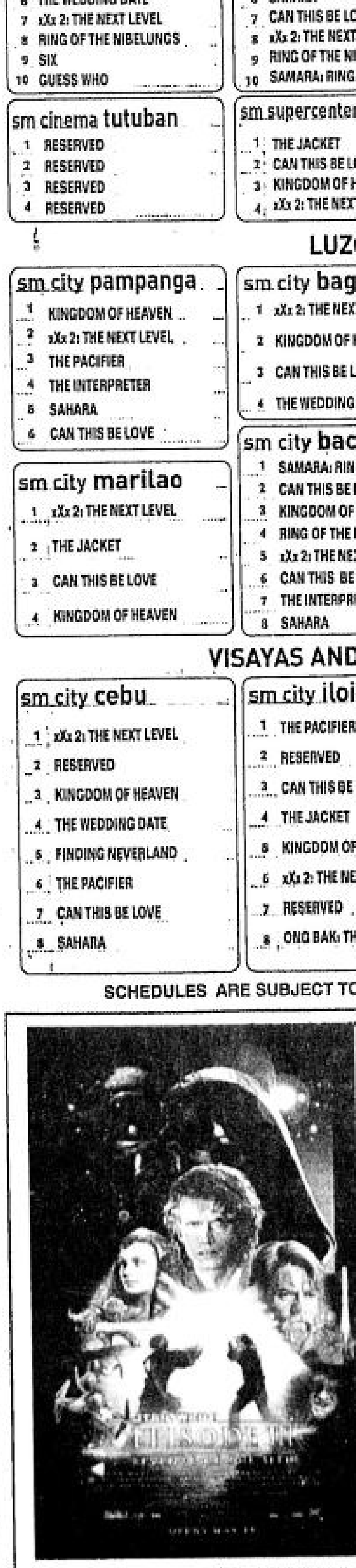

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN • THX
12:45 3:40 6:35 9:30

2 XXX 2
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 SIX
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:25 1:20 4:15 7:10 10:00

6 THE WEDDING DATE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 SAHARA
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

9 THE PACIFIER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 GUESS WHO?
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:10 12:55 3:40 6:25 9:20

2 THE INTERPRETER
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 XXX 2
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

4 THE WEDDING DATE
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00

5 GUESS WHO?
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00

6 SIX
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:10 1:55 4:40 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE WEDDING DATE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 SIX
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

4 GUESS WHO?
11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00

5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:55 1:55 4:55 7:55

6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 XXX 2
10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:20

8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
1:55 4:55 7:55 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2:00 5:10 8:25

2 XXX 2
12:00 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30

3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:20

4 GUESS WHO?
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

5 SIX
10:40 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:25

6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:20 1:30 4:40 7:50

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

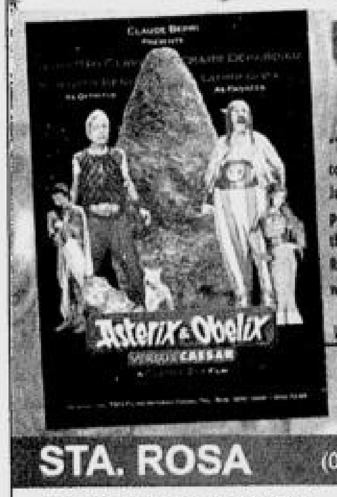
1 XXX 2
2 RING OF NIBELUNGS
3 SIX
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 OK, KA PARE KO
2 SAHARA
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

CAINTA 240-4661

1 XXX 2
2 SAHARA
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS



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1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 CURSED
5 PARAISO

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SAHARA
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
4 PARAISO
5 XXX 2

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 XXX 2
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SAHARA
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 THE JACKET

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 XXX 2
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SAHARA
4 PARAISO

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8186

1 TAGOS SA LAMAN
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 THE JACKET
4 XXX 2
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 THE INTERPRETER

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 THE INTERPRETER
2 SAHARA
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 XXX 2
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 SAMARA RING 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 XXX 2
2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
5 THE PACIFIER
6 PARAISO

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 THE JACKET
4 ONG BAK
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 SPANGLISH

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April 21 & 22 6:30 pm April 23 & 24 11:30 am, 3pm & 6pm Glorietta Activity Center	April 29, 30 & May 1 3pm & 6pm Activity Center	May 6 to 8 11 am & 6pm Activity Center	Lovemall! www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Catch Lilo's summer musical show live at the Ayala Malls featuring Bea Binene as LILO Chynna Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte as NANI Dion Ignacio and Tyrone Perez as DAVID Paul Salas as DANIEL Plus the SOP boys - Emil and Yexel Directed by Freddie Santos

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New Balance May 7, 2005	Watch Kuh Ledesma Live! May 7, 2005	Aloha Yo! Lilo's Summer Adventure featuring music from Disney's Lilo N' Stitch Island Favorites Album with GMA Artists May 6-8, 2005

AYALA
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GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

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AYALA CINEMAS THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 GUESS WHO
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 XXX 2
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 SHATTERED GLASS
2 XXX 2
3 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 GUESS WHO
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 XXX 2
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 THX SHATTERED GLASS GUARANTEED SEATS
2 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS
3 THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS
5 XXX 2 GUARANTEED SEATS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 GUESS WHO

ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 THE CURSE

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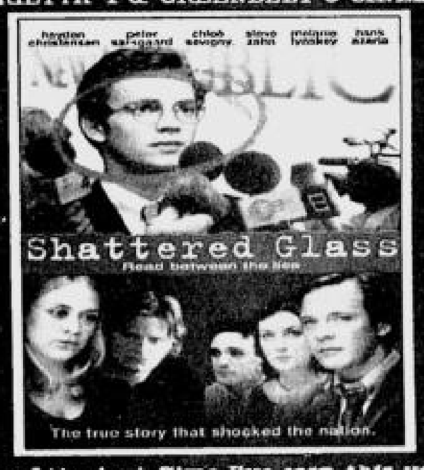

"One of the best films I've seen this year."

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② Wedding Date
③ Kingdom Of Heaven
④ Can This Be Love

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤ Guess Who
⑥ XXX 2
⑦ Kingdom Of Heaven

EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET!

ALOHA YO
Featuring music from
Disney's
Lilo & Stitch
Island Favorites
May 13, 4 pm and 6 pm
Activity Center

Catch Lilo's summer musical show featuring Bea Binene as LILO, Chynna Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte as NANI, Dion Ignacio and Tyrone Perez as DAVID, Paul Salas as DANIEL. Plus the SOP Boys Emil and Yexel.

Directed by: Freddie Santos

Reserved seats on a first-come, first-serve basis for shoppers who present P300 worth of receipts on May 13.

SALE!
SALE!

Time to Harvest the Best Deals

May 13	10am-9pm
May 14	10am-12mn
May 15	10am-9pm

Gary and Randy honor their mothers

From page A2-1

in Jesus. With Him and the right dose of laughter, what could be better?"

Disciplinarian

For his part, Randy Santiago describes his mother Cielito as the "noisy type *na nakakatawa, mababaw ang luha,* and a disciplinarian."

He remembers that, when he and his younger brother, director Rowell, were misbehaving when they were kids, their mom would order them to kneel on their pebbled floor with one book each on their outstretched arms. "My younger siblings (including actor Raymart) never experienced that," he sighs.

The singer, actor and bar owner also recalls how irate his mother, a former actress, would be when his rowdy pals from La Salle would hang out at their old house in Greenhills. "She'd be talking bad, but it would end up funny to us," he laughs. *"Karakter talaga."*

Strength and tenacity

Randy also saw strength and tenacity in his mother when his father, director Pablo Santiago, underwent treatment for diabetes for five years before succumbing to kidney complications.

"We're a happy family and she's a trouper—but, of course, we don't know what's on her mind when she's alone. It's been the biggest trial we've overcome together," he observes.

GARY V (left), as a boy, and mom Grimilda Ortiz.

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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
1 XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL 10:55, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 11:00, 2:00, 5:00 8:00, 11:00 PG-13
3 THE INTERPRETER 12:05, 2:55, 5:45 8:35, 11:10 PG-13
4 GUESS WHO? 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 8:20, 10:50 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
GUESS WHO PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PG13 12:50,3:50,6:50,9:50
THE INTERPRETER PG13 11:40,2:15,4:50,7:25,10:00
XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
CAN THIS BE LOVE GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PG13 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30

Items that tell a story...
THE VINTAGE YARD SALE
DROP BY ON MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND.
MAY 7-8
POWER PLANT MALL

STAR WARS: EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH
ADVANCE TICKETS AT THE SHANG CINEPLEX AVAILABLE STARTING MAY 6!
Be one of the first to catch the simultaneous U.S. screening of this blockbuster movie at the Shang Cineplex on May 18! Premiere screening starts at 10:00 p.m.
Advance tickets* for sale at no extra service fee from May 6, 2005 onwards. Available at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters at Level 6 and the ticket booth at Level 1.
*Selected screenings from May 18 - 22.
Come to the Streetscape at 6:30 p.m. on May 18 and party while you await this great movie event!
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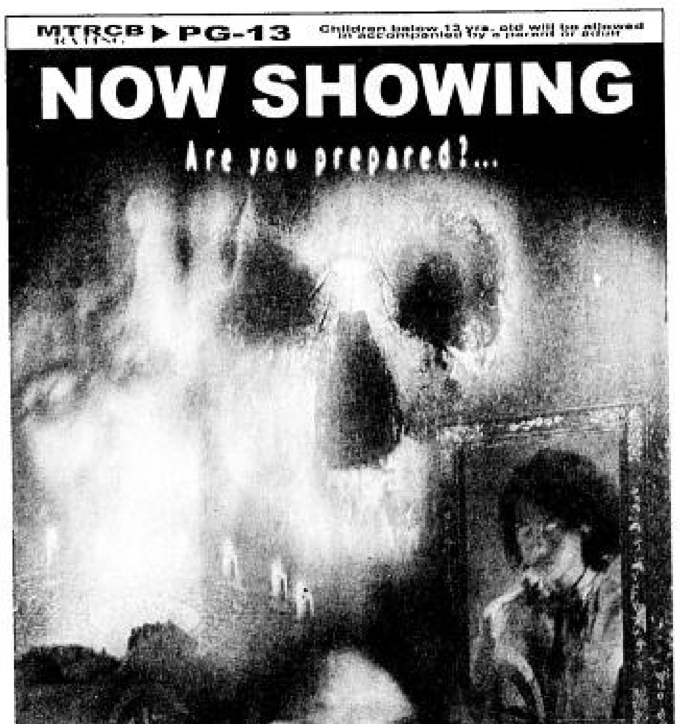
Shangri-La Plaza



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War and peace in Orlando Bloom's new starrer

BLOOM. Had to gain 20 pounds for Ridley Scott's "Kingdom of Heaven."

By Rito P. Asilo

"Kingdom of Heaven"

D: Ridley Scott
S: Orlando Bloom, Jeremy Irons, Liam Neeson

"WHAT man is a man who does not make the world a better place?," so asks Gódfrey (Liam Neeson) of his bastard son, French blacksmith Balian (Orlando Bloom), as he convinces him to join the Crusades in the 12th century to save Jerusalem from an invading army of Muslims.

To relieve his condemned wife's torment in hell after committing suicide over the death of their child, Balian agrees. When his father prematurely dies, the task of protecting the land and people of the king falls on his shoulders. Thus, Balian commences his arduous journey to a destiny of grief and greatness.

But, as the cautionary axiom goes: The road to hell is paved with good intentions. And sometimes, we lose sight of what's truly important. The politics of war is never an easy thing.

Ridley Scott's ("Gladiator," "Black Hawk Down") latest epic judiciously and lengthily demonstrates why the ideological conundrums over the elusive peace between Christians and Muslims remain a baffling historical paradox.

Scott lends his cinematic virtuosity to a potentially divisive premise (religious wars, colonial invasion) by inhabiting his film with characters who defy unfair stereotyping: A Muslim warlord more honorable than many Christian leaders we know; heads of state who actually grieve over the senseless deaths of their fallen soldiers, and a priest who, after sensing certain defeat, hastily declares: "Let's convert to Islam—and repent later!"

The director presents the horrors of war with alternatingly poetic and real-time visual mastery, and captures the look of that bygone era in muted, sepia-tone photography. Moreover, Scott doesn't resort to protracted, jaw-dropping gore and grime to make his point. And yet, he evokes sadness and introspection over man's unconscionable lust for blood—then and now!

We were concerned when we were invited to the screening of "Kingdom of Heaven." We worried over Bloom's lack of cinematic heft to carry, a Ridley Scott epic on his young shoulders.—Luckily, he does. (He had to gain 20 pounds for the movie.)

His medium build and boy-next-door good looks imbue him with vulnerability and believability when his character is confronted with issues of obligation, morality and love of country.

The movie stands as a reminder that a man's kingdom does not lie merely in earthly treasures or parcels of land: The real "Kingdom of Heaven" is a "kingdom of conscience" that rests in man's heart and mind. And the film shows that acknowledging defeat is not always a bad thing—sometimes, it's the only way to find love and redemption.

"Six"

D: Na-sorn Phanangkasiri
S: Intira Jaroenpura, Ray MacDonald

A bet brings six guys and a girl to rural Thailand to disprove the existence of ghosts. Fai (Intira Jaroenpura of "Nang-nak") is plagued by morbid visions of being stuck in a coffin, while Khan (Eurasian star Ray MacDonald), who's attracted to Fai, wants to find the six coffins allegedly hidden in a desolate mansion that looms by a cliff.

In typical Thai-thriller fashion, ominous signs keep appearing: The "serpent"—a six-star formation only seen in rainy January skies; black crows that fly into their windshield, and repeated warnings about the "sixth day of the sixth month."

Thirty minutes before midnight, the group gathers around the *ouija* board to call out the spirits. What follows is a startling "alternate" reality that revives a dark, forgotten past that further disrupts the volatile present.

Phanangkasiri makes use of savvy imagery to create an eerie atmosphere and mood for "Six." But, he utilizes too many clichés that ultimately spoil suspension of disbelief, and litters his film with a dizzying array of flashbacks and subplots that confuse rather than help move the narrative.

The good-looking cast, paced by Jaroenpura (who lends depth to a two-dimensional character), does well in their respective roles, but the movie trudges at snail's pace—and the first real jolt comes an hour and 20 minutes into the film!

They have to get their medical facts right, too: When one of the characters loses an eye, this is remedied by an eye transplant. While a cornea can be transplanted, there really is no such thing as a whole-eye transplant—yet. An amazing ophthalmologic feat unheard of in the medical field!

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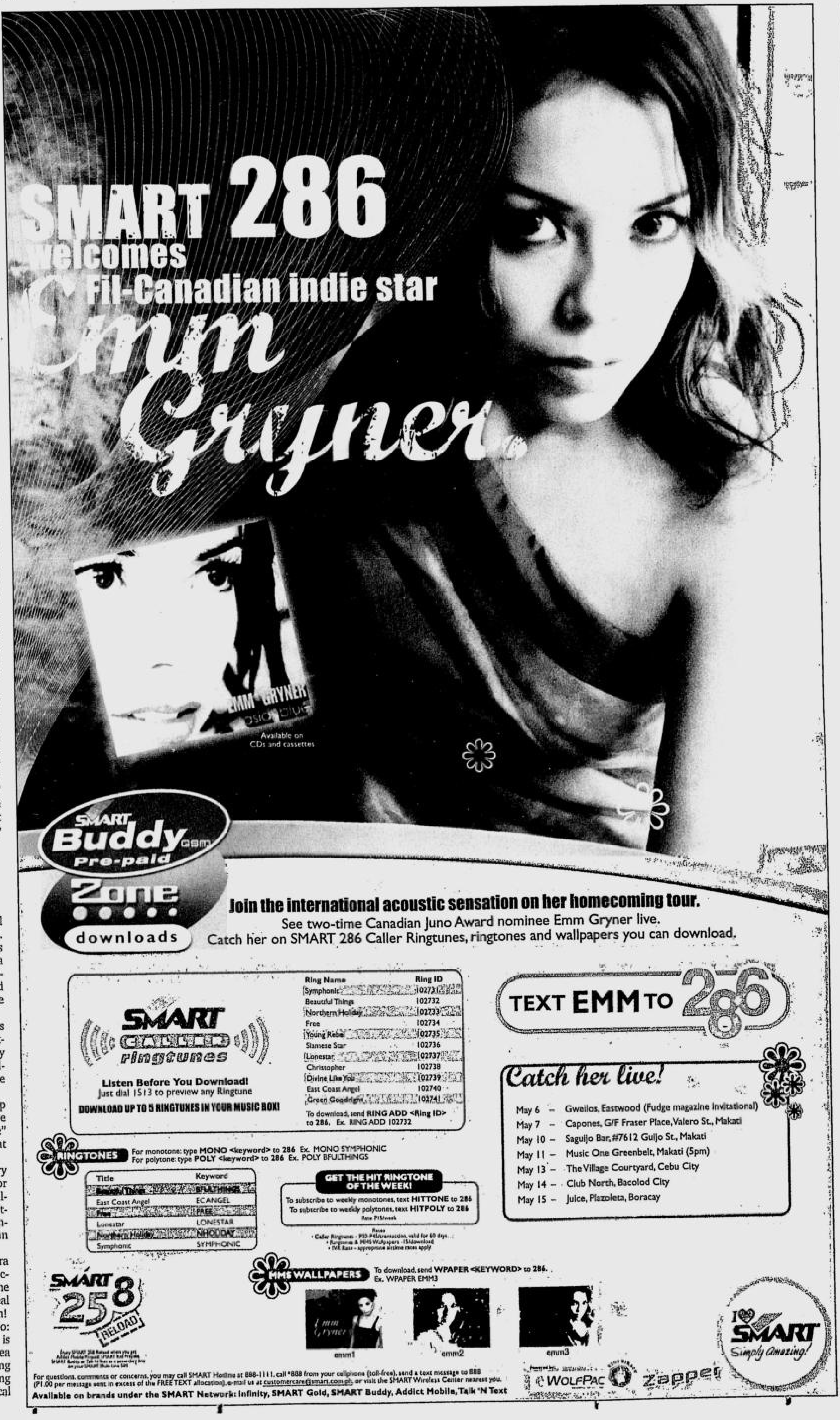
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Liam Neeson, from Kinsey to Lincoln

Show Biz Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

***FROM** Joanne Miranda:* **"I was fascinated with your feature on biographical films. My favorite actors, Liam Neeson and Hayden Christensen, also starred in controversial film bios recently, didn't they?"**

Yes, indeed, Joanne. The stars of the "Star Wars" prequels headlined well-received bios. Hayden Christensen won raves in Billy Ray's "Shattered Glass," about Stephen Glass, a young journalist who rose to fame by fabricating his stories. (The acclaimed film is currently showing in Ayala cinemas, so don't miss it.)

Controversial book

Liam Neeson, on the other hand, won awards for the film bio on Alfred Kinsey, who pioneered in research on human sexuality in the late 1940s. The publication of his controversial book, "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male," was one of the first recorded works that saw science address sexual behavior.

Interestingly, Peter Saarsgard appeared in both "Shattered Glass" and "Kinsey," and won well-deserved critical praise for his indelible, scorching performances.

Neeson will portray another real-life character in a film bio on Abraham Lincoln, which will be produced and directed by Steven Spielberg.

Jake Gyllenhaal ("Day After Tomorrow") will star in Sam Mendes' ("American Beauty") latest film, "Jarhead," based on former Marine Anthony Swofford's best-selling book about his pre-Desert Storm experiences in Saudi Arabia, and about his tour of duty in Kuwait.

For her part, Kate Winslet ("Titanic") stars as the "world's only lady tiger trainer" in Francesca Brill's "The Marvelous Mabel Stark."

Bounty hunter

British "It" girl Keira Knightley ("Pirates of the Caribbean") will grace the silver screen in Tony Scott's "Domino," a film about Domino Harvey, daughter of actor Laurence Harvey, who gave up a promising career as a Ford model to become a bounty hunter.

"Gracie" is a re-telling of the life story of actress Elizabeth Shue in suburban New Jersey in the late '70s, when she played soccer on an all-boys team, before she became an accomplished high school gymnast and actress.

Brainchild

The project is the brainchild of siblings Elizabeth ("Leaving Las Vegas") and Andrew ("Melrose Place"), and will be directed by Elizabeth's husband, Davis Guggenheim.

And Gretchen Mol ("Donnie Brasco") will play 1950s pin-up model Bettie Page, one of America's earliest sex icons, who became the target of a Senate investigation in Mary Harron's "The Ballad of Bettie Page."

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Filipino Heritage Festival moves to Taal, Batangas

By Nestor U. Torre

THE MONTH-LONG Filipino Heritage Festival was launched last April 28 with a celebration of the cultural riches of Davao. Today, the festivities move over to Taal, Batangas, for similarly glittering and diverse celebrations.

The day's festivities start at 9 a.m., with the opening of a big *tiangge* of *Produkto Batangueño*. Fourteen towns and cities will display their respective floats in *Parada ng Batangas*.

The *tiangge* features 35 booths showcasing a variety of products, promotions and marketing initiatives.

Meanwhile, at Escuela Pia/ Taal Cultural Center, there will be an art exhibit featuring the works of the Lapis ng Lipa group headed by a Taaleño, and the Pintanaw group.

Cultural presentation

Plus a cultural presentation at the Taal Social Court, with numbers contributed by local schools, NGOs and towns.

At 3 p.m., a Batangas Heritage Houses stamp series will be launched at the Villavicencio Ancestral House (The Gift House) in collaboration with the Philippine Postal Corporation.

And at 5:30 p.m., a big Cultural Night presentation will be staged at the Taal Social Court/ Heritage Village. Batangueños, visitors and special guests will be treated to a special show on Batangas history and culture.

Performers include the Tanauan Musical Guild, Lahing Batangan Dance Troupe and the Subli Group from Agoncillo. The evening's highlight is the presentation of excerpts from the new musical, "Mapaghimalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay," with songs composed by the much-acclaimed Ryan Cayabyab. The musical will be performed at the CCP this July, and will then tour Batangas and nearby provinces.

Treats

Today's cultural and heritage treats in Taal, Batangas will attract visitors eager to celebrate Filipino artistry, tradition and creativity. Why not be one of them?

If you can't make it to Taal today, its heritage festivities continue tomorrow. At 7:30 a.m., a Heritage Tour on Bike takes bikers to different towns and their historical places (San Jose, Ibaan, Batangas City, Calaca, Balayan) before reaching Taal.

At 10 a.m., 85 horses will participate in *Parada ng Kabayo para sa Kasaysayan*. Carriages, *tiburin*, *patuke* and solo-ridden steeds will come from Cavite, Tondo, Calamba, Cabuyao, Sta. Rosa, Bulacan, Calaca, Agoncillo and Lemery. After the parade, they will proceed to Lemery for the *Karera ng Tiburin*.

Choral concert

At 5:30 p.m., a choral concert at the historic Shrine of Caysasay features the Dangal ng Batangan Choral group, composed of Batangas City government employees, rendering religious and classical selections.

On May 9, the Filipino Heritage Festival moves over to Marikina City for its own celebration, then on to Dumaguete City, Intramuros, Antipolo City, the GSIS Museum, Hagonoy, Bulacan; the CCP, the National Museum, Victorias City, Rizal Park, Cebu City, Makati City—etc.!

Do take advantage of their month-long opportunity to savor the rich heritage and artistry of Filipinos all over the country!

EXCERPTS from Ryan Cayabyab's (inset) new musical on Our Lady of Caysasay will be performed tonight.

Remembering LVN's *Doña* Sisang and Mila del Sol

By Lena Strait Pareja

THIS is the story of two women who could have changed the course of Philippine cinema as early as 1939, had Fate decreed otherwise.

Narcisa Buencamino aka *Doña* Sisang was born to a rich family in San Miguel, Bulacan on Oct. 29, 1877. At the age of 16, she had to take charge of the family business and look after 12 younger siblings when her parents and eldest brother died.

She would make the rounds of the family *hacienda* on horseback, and attend to tenants' needs before retiring at dusk to indulge in her favorite pastime: needlework.

Her family belonged to the aristocracy, and she excelled at the social graces. Of the arts, her favorites were music and dancing, with special preference for the *kundiman*, tango, polka, and popular tunes like "La Golondrina" or "La Paloma."

Prominent figure

In 1905, she married Jose de Leon, a prominent figure in Bulacan, known as *Kapitan* Pepe (he was the municipal captain of San Miguel). Together, they worked hard to increase the family's assets from P150,000 at the start of their union to more than P1.5 million at the time of his death in 1934.

Seven children were born to the couple, the most well-known of whom were Atty. Manuel de Leon (who became president of LVN Pictures), Encarnacion de Leon (who married actor Leopoldo Salcedo), and Amada de Leon Erana (whose daughter, Nenita Vidal, became a teenage star in the 1950s).

Four years after her husband's death, *Doña* Sisang bought herself a theater that showed Filipino movies, and decided to go into movie production. It was here that her path crossed with Mila del Sol's.

Mila's real name was Clarita Rivera. Born on May 12, 1920 to a struggling family in Tondo, Manila, she was 10th among 11 children. Despite their meager income, her parents, Amado Rivera and Lorenza Villarba, managed to send their children to school.

By the time Clarita was 12, her elder sister, Sofia, was already a movie star with the screen name of Gloria Imperial. It was Clarita's task to accompany her sister to shooting.

Occasionally, Clarita would appear as a movie extra whenever she wasn't needed by her sister. It was director Carlos Vander Tolosa who first tapped her as a movie extra in her first film, "Nasaan Ka, Irog." Later on, she had a speaking part with child actress Tita Duran in "Mariang Alimango." But, her dream was to become a big star like Gloria.

Starring role

One day, after the shooting of her sister's film, "Matamis na Kasinungalingan," the sisters bumped into *Doña* Sisang's daughter, Bading Erana, who told Clarita that her mother wanted to see her for a starring role in LVN's first movie, "Giliw Ko." Here is Clarita's account of what happened afterwards:

"*Talagang* they were after Gloria, *pero* she was about to get married then, so *hindi pumayag ang nobyo.* So, they were in limbo. *Gusto ng lahat si* Corazon Noble, *pero nakakontrata siya sa* Sampaguita.

"*Tapos, pinasok si* Carmen Rosales. *E, ayaw ni Doña* Sisang *dahil sa ilong niya.* But, she went on to Sampaguita and became a big star. So, *talagang hindi siya para sa* LVN. I was only 12 then. So, *pinahanap ako ni Doña* Sisang, and it was love at first sight.

DOÑA SISANG AND DEL SOL (RIGHT). The starmaker and her top contract artist.

"*Ayaw sa akin ni* Vander Tolosa. *Siyempre,* first production *ko lang sa* LVN—with big names Ely Ramos, Fernando Poe, Fleur de Lis. *Pero, sabi ni Doña* Sisang: '*Kung ayaw niyo sa kanya, magsara na tayo! Para na lang akong natalo sa sugal.*'"

It turned out that *Doña* Sisang was already sick and tired of the delays in production, and she was ready to call it quits. She had given Carlos a free hand in choosing the stars of his picture, but he was ambivalent—and her patience was wearing thin.

Morning sun

When daughter Bading brought Clarita to her, she liked the girl immediately. She was big for her age and looked like a young lady instead of a child. Her face radiated the brightness of the morning sun, so *Doña* Sisang decided to call her Mila del Sol. She felt that it was short of a miracle (Mila for *"milagro"*) that her problems were finally solved. But, she wasn't prepared for Tolosa's reaction.

He took one look at his former movie extra and was crestfallen. How could this bedimpled, smilingly cheerful 12-year-old girl with baby fat still on her cheeks be given a starring role in his film alongside Ramos, Poe and Fleur de Lis?

When Tolosa tried to point out that she did not fit into the love scenes of the movie because she was too young. *Doña* Sisang advised him to make changes in his script.

*Hindi pa pwedeng makipag-*love scene *yan, ang bata-bata! Palitan nyo ang* script," she told him. "Let her be what she is. *Kunan nyo ang mga ginagawa niya, tapos palitan nyo ang istorya. Huwag kayong maglagay ng* love interest. *Bata siya sa pelikula."*

For her part, the girl wanted to be more than just a child in the film. She wanted to do drama and portray a young lady. She had to convince her director that she could do it. Looking back at that momentous event in her life, Mila recalled:

Prayer

"Nagtaka sila, bakit daw ako nagustuhan ni Doña Sisang? I know for a fact that it was an answer to my prayer, because I prayed for it. I wanted so much to be a big movie star, I didn't want to be an extra. I prayed real hard. *'Yun ang sagot ng Diyos sa akin.* Only God could have directed her to discover me."

"Giliw Ko" turned out to be the biggest hit that year. On the night of its premiere at the Metropolitan Theater, no less than the first citizen of the land, Commonwealth President Manuel Luis Quezon, was the guest of honor.

Doña Sisang decided to stay in the business, and Mila del Sol became her biggest contract star. She played lead roles in the top pre-war movies of LVN which were directed by Gerry de Leon ("Princesa ng Kumintang"), Manuel Conde ("Sawing Gantimpala," "Ararong Ginto" and "Villa Hermosa"), and Lamberto Avellana ("Rosa Linda").

Her most memorable film during that era was "Ibong Adarna," the first Filipino black and white film that introduced color to the local screen.

In the scene where the mythical bird revealed its healing powers to an ailing monarch, thousands were thrilled as the bird spread out its foliage in rainbow colors, which were handpainted—frame by frame—by LVN's technical expert, Ramon Monroy.

After the war *Doña* Sisang and her son, Manny de Leon, set up a full-color processing laboratory, which serviced the local movie industry until the turn of the millennium half a century later.

Protegé

Doña Sisang's protegé, Mila del Sol, is now 84 years old. She married Alonzo Young, an American diplomat, and resided in San Francisco, California.

At the invitational premiere of the restored 34-mm print of "Ibong Adarna," which celebrated the anniversary of the UP Film Institute last April 28 with *Doña* Sisang's eldest granddaughter, former Ambassador Narcisa de Leon "Ching" Escaler, as guest of honor, Mila del Sol sent her son Jesus "Sonny" R. Tambunting, to read her message for the Philippine movie industry.

It was a night to reminisce . . . and remember!

'C.S.I., New York': More of the same

By Noelani Torre

THE OWNERS of the "C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation" TV franchise obviously believe in the good, old show biz saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." They've taken it a step further, in fact, by creating two more series—"C.S.I., Miami" and "C.S.I., New York."

We were finally able to watch "C.S.I., New York" recently and, as expected, it has all the trademarks of a "C.S.I." show. As with its predecessors, the New York branch has an unflappable male criminologist and his female partner heading the investigative team.

Formula

The new show also follows the formula of investigating two crimes in every episode, and getting the bad guys in the end, natch. And the show's real star—the science of forensics—is clearly and graphically illustrated in the now readily identifiable "C.S.I." style.

We can't say that we don't enjoy watching "C.S.I., New York"—it's fast-paced, packed with enough plot twists to keep you guessing, and the demonstrations of investigative police procedure are intriguing. However, neither can we say that this show gives us something that the other two don't.

Perhaps it's too early to tell, but then the show's been on-air for quite some time now, and it has yet to distinguish itself from the other two.

SINISE. Plays Det. Mac Taylor on popular series' latest spin-off.

The "C.S.I." concept itself is good, and it makes for enjoyable and quasi-educational television, but it seems to be spreading it around a little too thinly and a little too briskly—a view echoed by "C.S.I." star William Petersen:

"I just think that it went too fast," he said in an interview. "There wasn't enough time to make these shows different."

It's been rumored that he'll soon be leaving the series because of this, but he did also say in another interview that he wouldn't, "as long as we can keep making it better and different."

Good thing

"Better and different" aren't the words we'd use to describe this spin-off set in the Big Apple, however. "More of the same" would be more accurate. Still, this can be seen as a good thing, inasmuch as Bruckheimer and company already have a winning formula in the basic "C.S.I." framework.

The danger here is in getting too formulaic. A way to avoid this would be to develop the new series' characters. The New York team is still more two-dimensional than three, and we haven't received much insight into their characters as of yet. They seem to be going towards that direction, though, so we're hoping to see more emotionally intense episodes in the future.

"C.S.I., New York" stars Academy Award-nominated Gary Sinise as Det. Mac Taylor, Melina Kanakaredes as Det. Stella Bonasera, Carmine Giovinazzo as Danny Messer, Vanessa Ferlito as Aiden Burn, Hill Harper as chief medical examiner Dr. Sheldon Hawkes, and Eddie Cahill as Det. Don Flack.

Hero, Dingdong put premium on education

By Remy M. Umerez

THE DEMANDS of a show biz career make it difficult for young stars to continue with their studies—many of them can't even finish high school! There are, however, those who believe that education is far more important than a flourishing career.

A good example is Dingdong Dantes, one of television's busiest stars. He is still pursuing a college education.

Sacrifice

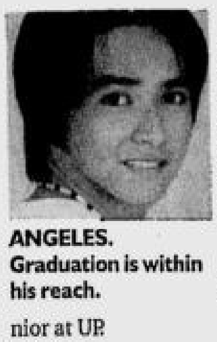
He admits combining school and show biz requires sacrifice. "It's especially hard if you lack sleep. *Awang-awa nga sa akin si Tita* Boots (Anson-Roa), who was my teacher once. *Halos napipikit ako sa klase* because, from taping, I'd go straight to school," he recalls.

Dingdong is now in his fourth year of interdiciplinary studies, and the thought of getting a diploma excites him.

The actor, who appears on GMA-7's *telefantasya*, "Encantadia," offers these tips to celebrities who wish to go back to school:

"Choose a course you really like, so that you'd enjoy juggling school and work. And just take a few units," he says.

Sarah Geronimo, on the other hand, was a third year high school student at UST when she joined "Star for a Night." She had to quit school due to her show biz commitments.



ANGELES. Graduation is within his reach.

So, the next, best option was to continue her schooling through home study. These days, Mondays are reserved for that—and, with the help of a tutor, the task has become easier.

When school opens in June, Hero Angeles will be a Fine Arts senior at UP.

"I didn't want to stop. *Masisira ang* momentum. Now, graduation is within my reach—a once-in-a-lifetime experience I don't want to miss! It's the best gift I can give my parents and myself. All my siblings are graduates of Fine Arts," he reveals.

Serious

Sharon Cuneta, for her part, is very proud of daughter KC because she is serious with her studies at Paris University. "She is doing something I failed to accomplish. She chose the course (management), but Kiko and I thought it would be wise to send her abroad, for her to remain focused. She's not a celebrity there.

"And I wanted KC to learn responsibility and independence. I believe that it is parents' duty to provide good education for their children!"

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Malaysia has fallen in love with Jericho and Kristine

By Jocelyn Valle

JUST like the Korean and Taiwanese soap operas that are the rage on local TV these days, Philippine-produced dramas are making waves in other Asian countries. Malaysia, for instance, has fallen in love with "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" and its stars, Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa.

"SWNW" is not the first ABS-CBN serial to hit Malaysian TV. First, there was "Mula sa Puso," starring Claudine Barretto and the late Rico Yan. It was followed by "Pangako sa 'Yo," which gave birth to the erstwhile Jericho-Kristine love team.

Romance

When the couple's real-life romance ended, the storyline of "Sana'y" took a sharp turn that led to the inclusion in the soap of Jericho's ex-girlfriend, Angelika dela Cruz, and Rosales' fellow Hunks member, Diether Ocampo, who eventually got involved with Kristine.

Reason

The reason why ABS-CBN's prized talents are such a hit in Malaysia, according to a compatriot working in Kuala Lumpur, is that Filipino stars are regarded as exceptionally good-looking.

That's flattering, of course, considering there's also widespread subscription to cable TV (which offers Hollywood fare). Our source added that all foreign drama serials and films on cable and national TV are subtitled in the national language, Bahasa Malaysia.

During our recent trip to Malaysia, we found out that "American Idol" was also hot in that part of the world. We watched the show with an Indian expat who rooted for Contantine Maroulis.

We also observed that the cineplexes were dominated by the latest American movies. There were just a couple of Asian releases, like the horror franchise, "The Eye 10." (We are *way* behind in this department, as only the third or fourth installment has been shown here.).

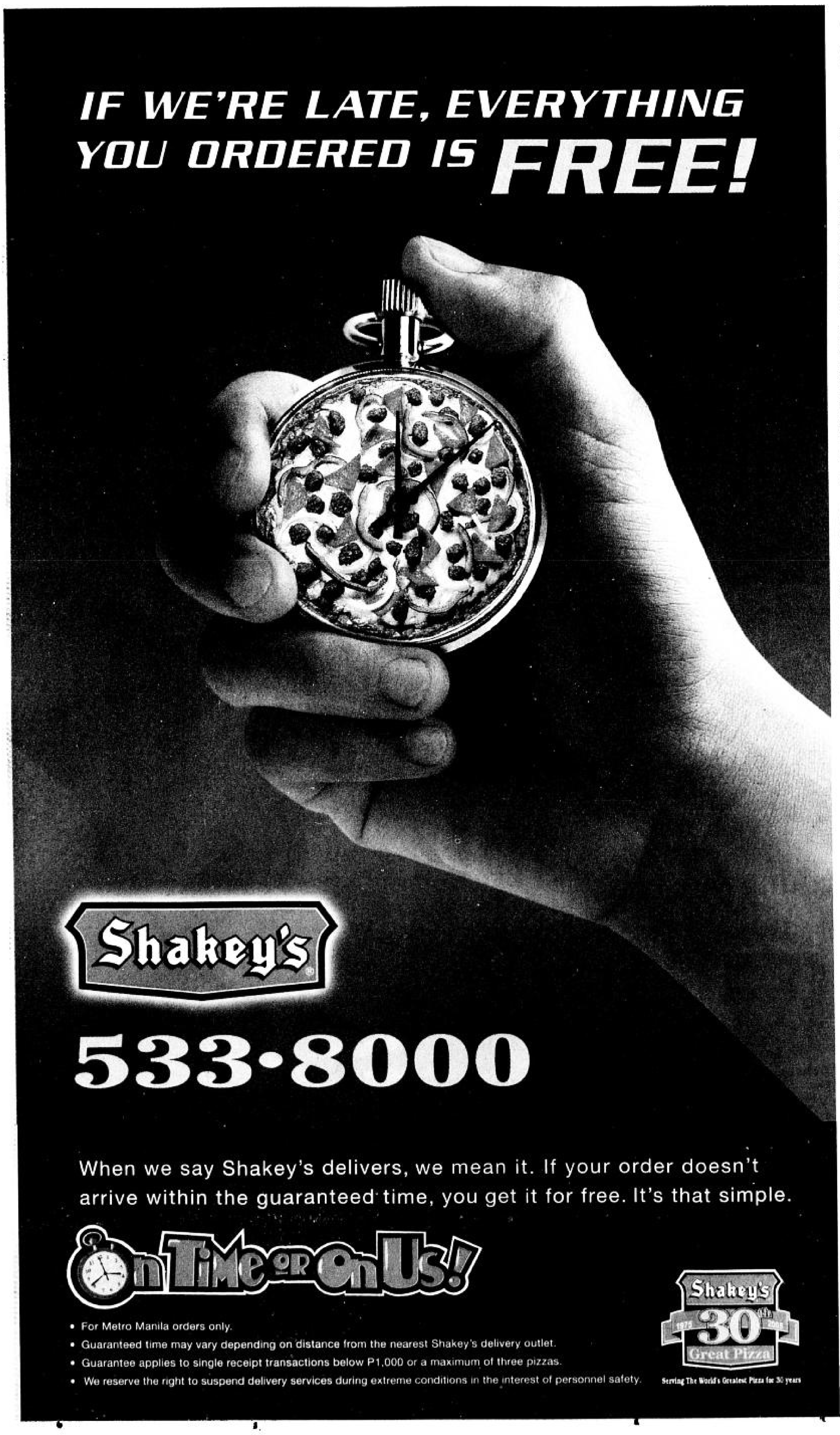
We heard a variety of sounds as diverse as the ethnic backgrounds of the residents of Malaysia. Wafting through the air were songs in Malaysian, Indian, English (from the sanitized version of Eminem's "Real Slim Shady" to the remix of Destiny's Child's "Survivor") and other languages, including the theme from the soap, "Winter Sonata"—in its original Korean lyrics!

Censorship

There were about 10 radio stations, a Malaysian citizen of Chinese descent told us. Eight of them play English songs, while the rest are in Malay, Chinese or Indian. He added that there's censorship everywhere—in the movies, on TV shows, and in the music they listen to—even in the magazines they read!

We chanced upon a copy of FHM ,and it was nothing like what we have here: There were no sexy spreads and racy columns. In fact, it looked like a regular women's magazine.

ROSALES AND HERMOSA. Their soap series, "Mula sa Puso" and "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," are winning fans in neighboring Asian countries.



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Springer makes no apologies for his show

By Nestor U. Torre

PRODUCERS of local TV talk shows of the screaming, hysterical and pugilistic sort insist that they don't mean to do anything in bad taste. All they want, they piously intone, is to provide a venue for their feuding guests to be honest about expressing their feelings, so they can finally exorcise their combative demons.

On the *other* hand, Jerry Springer, the "father" of in-your-face talk shows of this nasty nature, candidly admitted on TV recently that his seminal program, "The Jerry Springer Show," became a big hit because it intentionally fielded the weirdest characters in the most volatile situations—not for some altruistic reason, but simply to generate a lot of leering, panting viewership, for ratings' sake.

Honesty

Now, *that* kind of honesty is more our cup of jive.

Springer further admitted that his show was a "circus," and didn't disagree with its critics. In fact, he declared: "If I were a critic, I'd say the same things they say about me and my show!"

He recalled that he started hosting a talk show in 1991, but that program didn't get anywhere because it was "too serious." That's why, in 1994, he and his producers decided to revamp the show's format, and patterned it after Rikki Lake's more combustible, "happening" show.

To generate greater viewership, Springer's new show made it a point to feature young guests and their problematic relationships, with expectedly more shallow and un-mellow results. He opened his show up to "strippers, hookers and transvestites who engaged in knock-down fights."

Springers' telecasts started sporting racy titles like "I Want to Pose Nude for Penthouse" and "Tales of the She-Males," packaging that attracted the "crazies" out there, lonely or brazen people who were bent on unleashing their wild neuroses on the entire viewing nation.

Boxing ring

Soon, Springer's studio became more of a boxing ring than the venue for a talk show, as his combative guests screamed at and hit each other, and hurled a wide range of projectiles in one another's direction.

In time, bouncers or "referees" were hired to keep the show's guests from hurting each other. But, the action remained volatile, the insults shocking, and the program's ratings soared so high that Springer beat Oprah.

He was severely criticized, not just by media critics, but also by a US senator who castigated the show for "bringing television down to a new low."

Well, Springer has paid his dues and reassessed the effects of his in-your-face kind of television. —Unlike his local imitators, who keep trying to push the envelope, even if it already imploded six show biz seasons ago. Welcome to the mangy world of TV's Xerox Limbo!

SPRINGER. Intentionally fielded the weirdest characters in the most volatile situations.

SATURDAY *Special*

Mikee bats for responsible TV programming

By Nestor U. Torre

THE SIGNIFICANT cause of better television for young viewers was given a big boost recently when respected celebrity, mother and champion equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski agreed to act as the official spokesperson of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television.

All of a sudden, the important foundation acquired a face, a personal focus, in dynamic, committed and articulate Mikee, as she guested with SEAFCTV treasurer Elvira Go on Cito Beltran's "Straight Talk" and other talk shows, to boost the foundation's many relevant initiatives.

Appeal

Even better, Mikee gave the foundation's cause an empathetic appeal, because she brought to its articulation and projection her own credibility and involvement.

As a young wife, mother and role model, the concern she expressed about TV and its occasionally negative impact on children acquired greater convincing power.

When we met with Mikee, Elvira and SEAFCTV secretary general Mag Hatol recently, we asked Mikee what had made her decide to add being the foundation's spokesperson to her already demanding schedule.

Mikee shared, "Even when I was busy as a performer on TV years ago, I was already aware of the power of the medium for good or bad. That's why, in my TV work, I kept reminding myself of my responsibility to viewers—especially the impressionable youth."

Mikee's sensitivity to the need to use TV responsibly is the happy consequence of her upbringing. She was born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth, but her parents made sure that she didn't grow up spoiled.

Blessings

On the contrary, they instilled in her a sense of being blessed, and thus being practically required to give those blessings back to other people.

In relation to the foundation's objectives, she's big on doing what she can to help empower viewers in relation to the TV medium. All too often, she observes, viewers think they're helpless in controlling or even influencing how local TV functions, and thus allow the medium to do its worst.

This "victim mentality," as Mikee describes it, is sadly unproductive. So, she seeks to turn it around by informing viewers that, if they pool their numbers and resources together, they have the power to persuade TV people to improve on their work, especially in relation to being of better service to young viewers.

Collective power

She urges other parents to become more aware of their own collective power, and work harder to convince our TV networks to come up with better shows for children. Her urgent exhortation:

"If we only take time to observe our children as they watch TV, we would see the medium's great influence on them. As parents, we have the duty to protect our children by persuading our TV people to come up with programs that encourage young viewers to be patriotic and God-fearing, and with shows that uphold rather than assault the family!"

COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI. Boosts SEAFCTV's many relevant initiatives.

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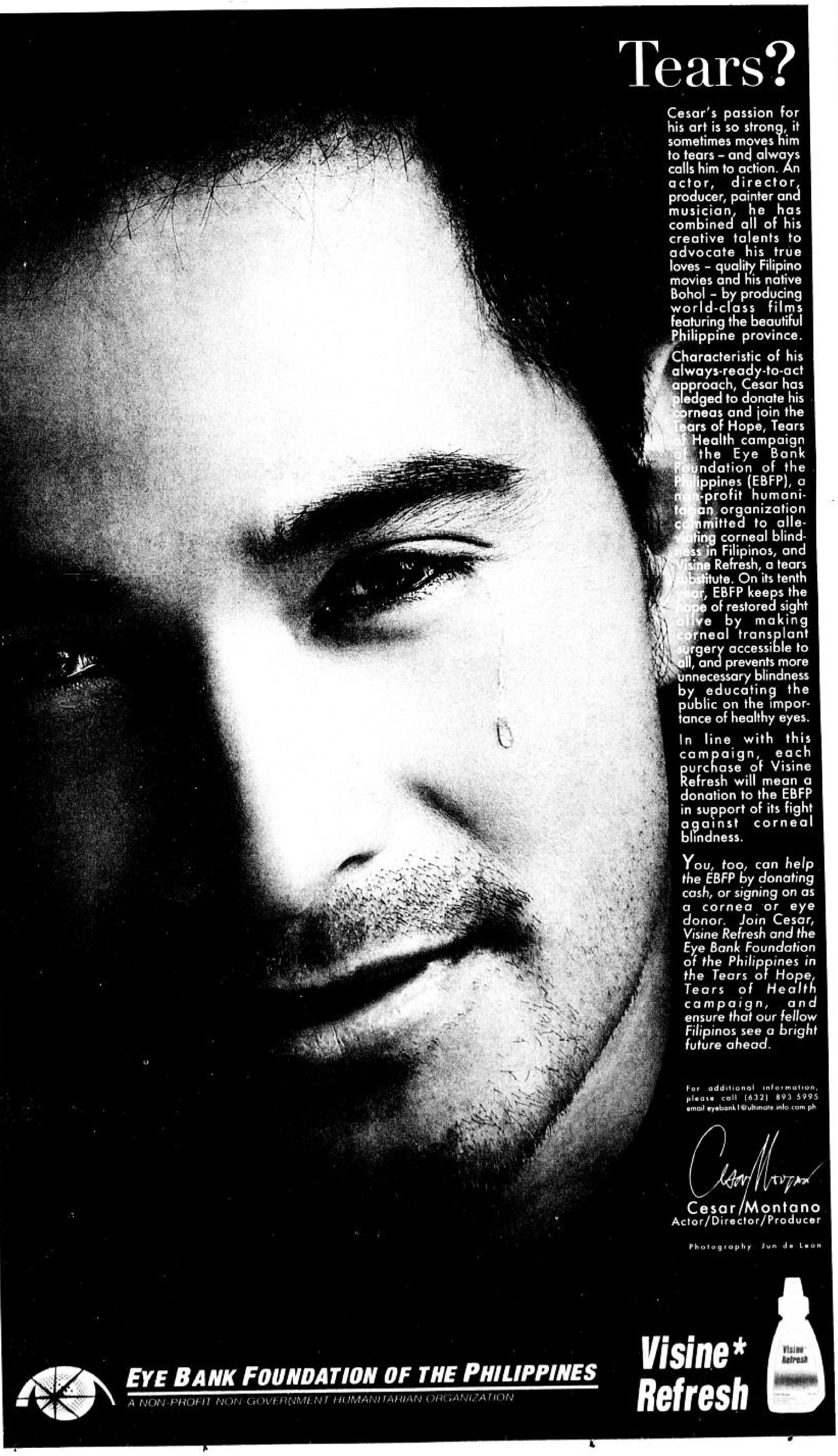

Tears?

Cesar's passion for his art is so strong, it sometimes moves him to tears – and always calls him to action. An actor, director, producer, painter and musician, he has combined all of his creative talents to advocate his true loves – quality Filipino movies and his native Bohol – by producing world-class films featuring the beautiful Philippine province.

Characteristic of his always-ready-to-act approach, Cesar has pledged to donate his corneas and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Cesar, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information, please call (632) 893 5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph

Cesar Montano
Actor/Director/Producer

Photography Jun de Leon

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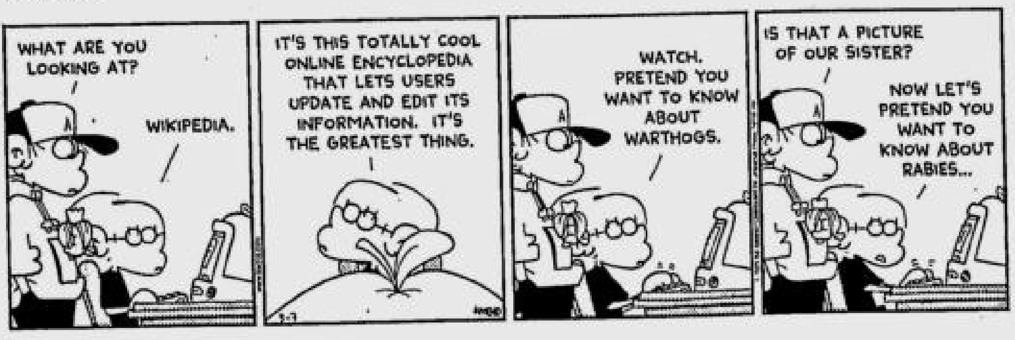
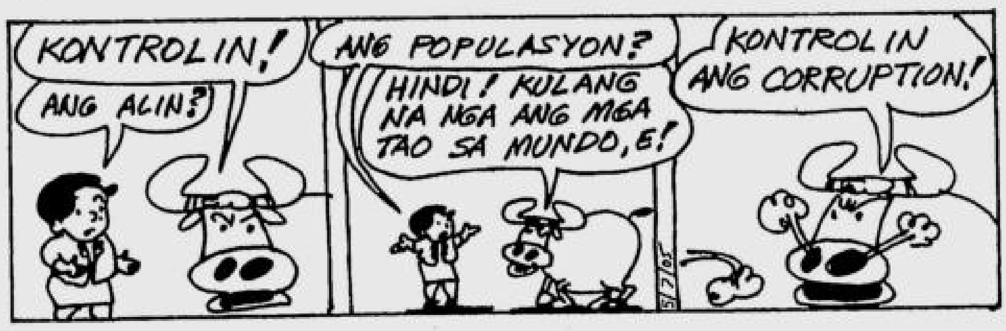
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
WIKIPEDIA.
IT'S THIS TOTALLY COOL ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA THAT LETS USERS UPDATE AND EDIT ITS INFORMATION. IT'S THE GREATEST THING.
WATCH. PRETEND YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT WARTHOGS.
IS THAT A PICTURE OF OUR SISTER?
NOW LET'S PRETEND YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT RABIES...
5-7
AMEND

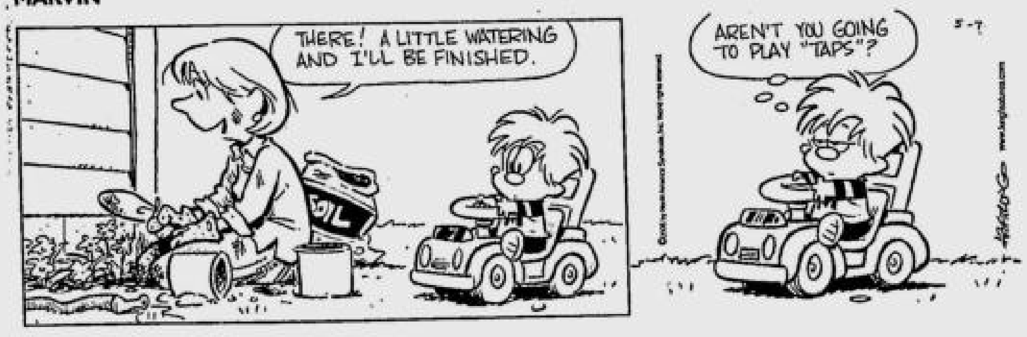
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KONTROLIN!
ANG ALIN?
ANG POPULASYON?
HINDI! KULANG NA NGA ANG MGA TAO SA MUNDO, E!
KONTROL IN ANG CORRUPTION!
5/7/05

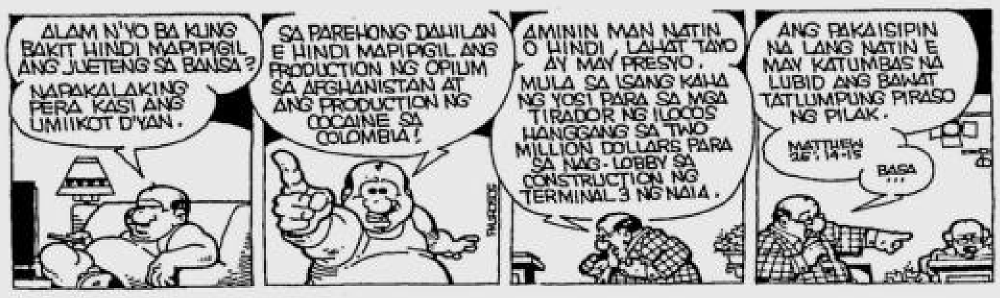
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THERE! A LITTLE WATERING AND I'LL BE FINISHED.
OIL
AREN'T YOU GOING TO PLAY "TAPS"?
5-7
ARMSTRONG

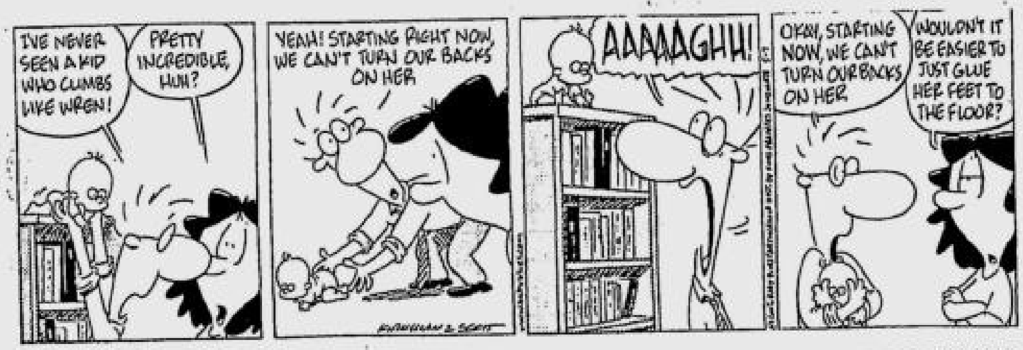
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM N'YO BA KUNG BAKIT HINDI MAPIPIGIL ANG JUETENG SA BANSA?
NAPAKALAKING PERA KASI ANG UMIIKOT D'YAN.
SA PAREHONG DAHILAN E HINDI MAPIPIGIL ANG PRODUCTION NG OPIUM SA AFGHANISTAN AT ANG PRODUCTION NG COCAINE SA COLOMBIA!
AMININ MAN NATIN O HINDI, LAHAT TAYO AY MAY PRESYO. MULA SA ISANG KAHA NG YOSI PARA SA MGA TIRADOR NG ILOCOS HANGGANG SA TWO MILLION DOLLARS PARA SA NAG-LOBBY SA CONSTRUCTION NG TERMINAL 3 NG NAIA.
ANG PAKAISIPIN NA LANG NATIN E MAY KATUMBAS NA LUBID ANG BAWAT TATLUMPUNG PIRASO NG PILAK.
MATTHEW 26: 14-15
BASA ...

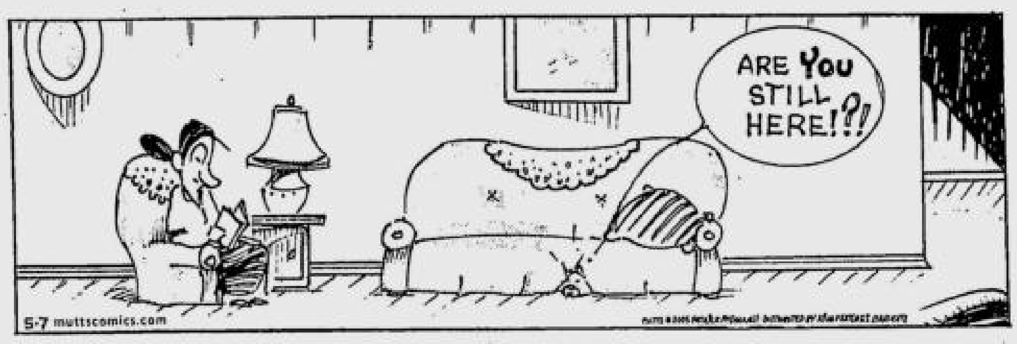
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'VE NEVER SEEN A KID WHO CLIMBS LIKE WREN!
PRETTY INCREDIBLE, HUH?
YEAH! STARTING RIGHT NOW, WE CAN'T TURN OUR BACKS ON HER
AAAAAGHH!
OKAY, STARTING NOW, WE CAN'T TURN OUR BACKS ON HER
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO JUST GLUE HER FEET TO THE FLOOR?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

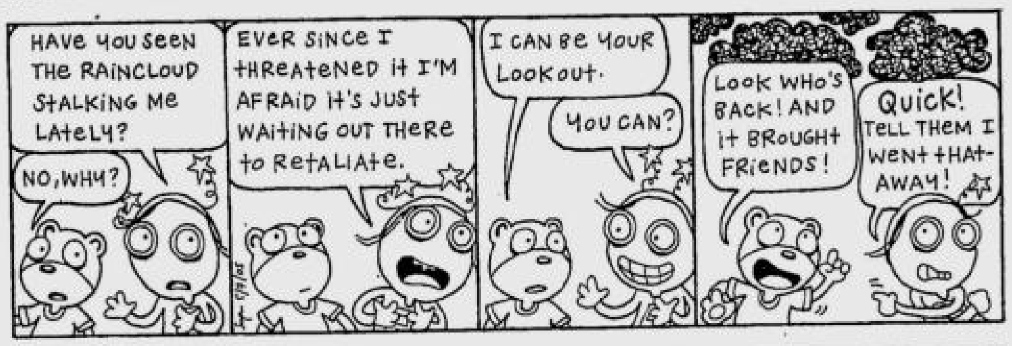
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ARE YOU STILL HERE!?!
5-7 muttscomics.com

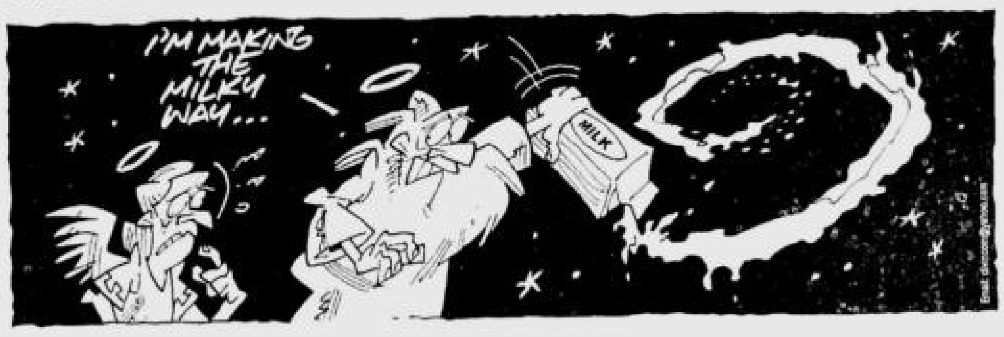
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HAVE YOU SEEN THE RAINCLOUD STALKING ME LATELY?
NO, WHY?
EVER SINCE I THREATENED IT I'M AFRAID IT'S JUST WAITING OUT THERE TO RETALIATE.
I CAN BE YOUR LOOKOUT.
YOU CAN?
LOOK WHO'S BACK! AND IT BROUGHT FRIENDS!
QUICK! TELL THEM I WENT THAT-AWAY!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I'M MAKING THE MILKY WAY...
MILK

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural dignity that inspires respect from others. You are devoted to whatever your cause in life is. You particularly appreciate beautiful things, literature and music. You're very sensual. If you are a parent, you take this responsibility very seriously. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings! Enjoy! Birthdate of: Johnny Unitas, football player; Gary Cooper, actor; Eva Peron, political figure.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be careful about making agreements with friends or promising something to others. You don't have the complete picture today. For some reason, there is Vaseline on your lens. Caution!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't jump up and down about anything, especially with authority figures, parents and bosses. You think you know what you're talking about—but there's a good chance you don't! Things are not as they seem.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't be upset about religious, political or philosophical ideas today. There's a good chance you do not fully understand what is happening. Confusion is rampant today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Avoid financial dealings with friends and groups today. Too much can go wrong. In fact, lies and deception are possible.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a poor day for any kind of agreements and contracts. You don't have the full picture. Furthermore, others don't understand what you want. Just wait and do nothing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Tread carefully at work today. Someone might not be completely honest with you. To avoid confrontation, you might be tempted to lie. Don't do it. (Your integrity and self-respect matter more.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't divide shared possessions today. Later you won't be happy with how things were managed. Something is confusing you, and you don't know it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a very poor day for important discussions with family members, partners or even members of the general public. People too easily misunderstand each other. Deception is possible.

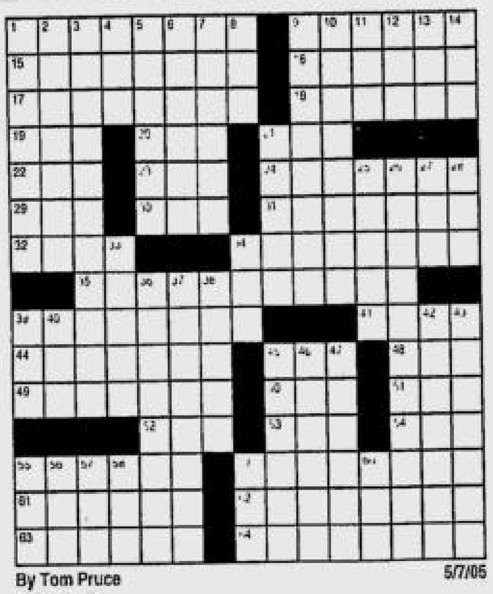
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel sympathetic to a co-worker and you want to help. But do you have all the facts? Someone might be crying crocodile tears. (Don't be a sucker for this.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This can be quite a strange day. At home, parents might feel sympathetic about children, but something is confusing. Avoid important decisions. Misunderstandings are likely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your efforts to help a family member might not be effective now. Perhaps someone is not being completely truthful with you? Protect your own best interests.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll likely spend today daydreaming and wool-gathering. That's OK. It's just that kind of day. If you think that something fishy is going on somewhere, it probably is. People aren't particularly truthful today.

DAILY CROSSWORD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15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43
44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

5/7/05

ACROSS
1 Regional languages
9 Chops into small pieces
15 Signer-upper
16 Squirrel's stash
17 Superlatively showery
18 Brave ones
19 April 15 letters
20 Manx or Persian
21 Keyboard key
22 Aging vessel
23 __ had it up to here!
24 Religious recluse
29 Teamwork disrupter
30 Slugger Williams
31 Joined the march
32 Brief times
34 Spirally locks
35 Impassioned speakers
39 Annual publication
41 Bribes
44 Tailor
45 Brit. electees
48 Weak in numbers
49 Make a check error
50 Orinoco tributary
51 Non-invasive diagnostic
52 Knight's title
53 Sweetie
54 Take steps
55 Language of Lebanon
59 Brother of Devil's Island
61 Mouth moisture
62 Flexible feeler
63 Red gem
64 Sermonizer

DOWN
1 Obtains from a source
2 Very hot under the collar
3 Bluebloods
4 __ Nol of Cambodia
5 Bring out
6 Divide or cling
7 Tried
8 Fixed
9 Indian sovereign
10 North Atlantic hazards
11 Negative conjunction
12 __-Magnon
13 Wind dir.
14 Air-leak sound
21 Lukewarm
25 Soda fountain offerings
26 Ceasar's date
27 Hanoi holiday
28 Newspaper honchos
33 Evidence unit?
34 Asian nation, abbr.
36 Harsh in manner
37 Fancifully depicted
38 More achy
39 Edible tuber
40 Lilly or Wallach
42 Cotton fabric
43 Coach Barry
45 "Das Lied von der Erde" composer
46 Philomela's sister
47 Beethoven's "Moonlight __"
55 Pompous fool
56 Talkie tunes
57 Mr. Baba
58 Open container
59 Org. of Roddick and Agassi
60 Def. mil. grp.

Friday's Puzzle Solved

Z	E	R	O		G	A	F	F	S		I	D	A	S
A	S	E	A		A	N	I	O	N		N	I	T	E
H	A	N	K	A	Z	A	R	I	A		K	A	L	I
N	U	T		P	E	I		B	I	R	D	M	A	N
			R	U	S	S	E	L	L	C	R	O	W	E
B	O	W	E			N	E	E		C	O	N		
E	D	H	A	R	R	I	S		I	O	P	D	O	G
R	E	I		E	O	N		K	A	L		J	O	E
G	A	T	S	B	Y		A	L	P	A	C	I	N	O
		E	L	O		I	T	O			F	M	A	G
R	O	B	E	R	T	D	E	N	I	R	O			
A	D	R	E	N	A	L		D	X	I		I	C	K
D	I	E	T		K	E	V	I	N	B	A	C	O	N
A	L	A	E		E	R	I	K	A		H	E	R	O
R	E	D	D		I	S	L	E	Y		S	T	Y	X

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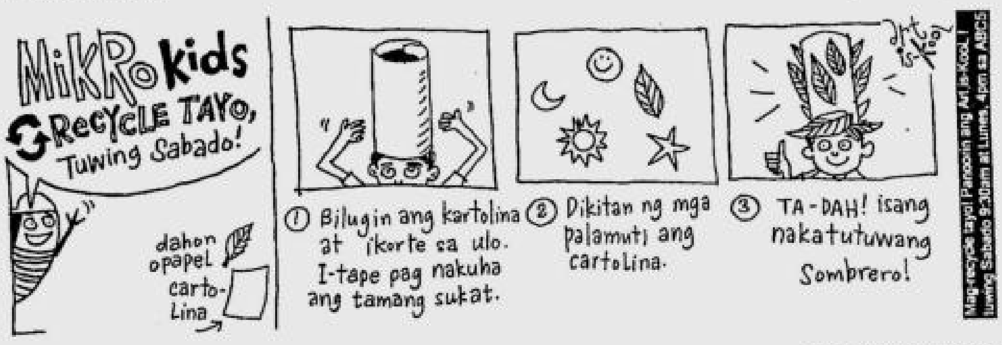
5/6/05

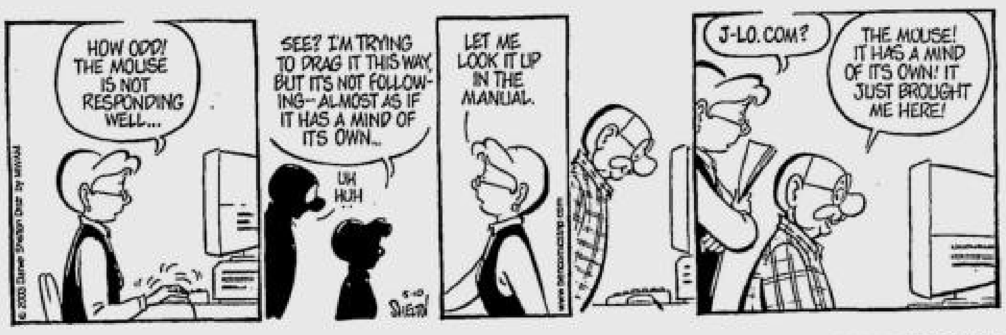
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
dahon
opapel
carto-Lina
① Bilugin ang kartolina at ikorte sa ulo. I-tape pag nakuha ang tamang sukat.
② Dikitan ng mga palamuti ang cartolina.
③ TA-DAH! isang nakatutuwang Sombrero!
Art is-Kool
Mag-recycle tayo! Panoorin ang Art Is-Kool! tuwing Sabado 9:30am at Lunes 4pm sa ABC5

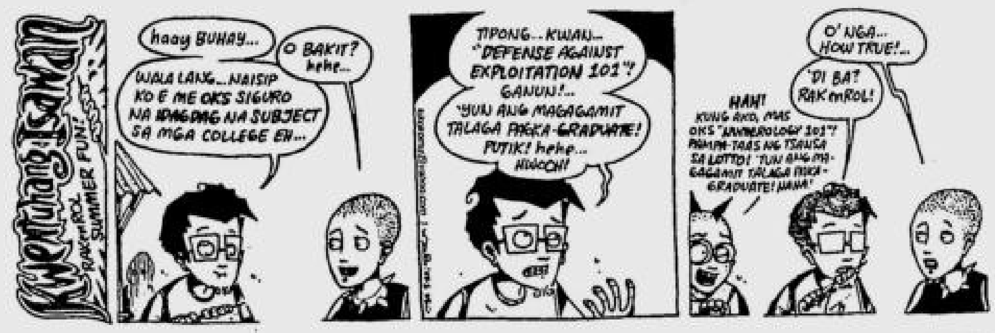
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW ODD! THE MOUSE IS NOT RESPONDING WELL...
SEE? I'M TRYING TO DRAG IT THIS WAY, BUT ITS NOT FOLLOWING—ALMOST AS IF IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN...
UH HUH
LET ME LOOK IT UP IN THE MANUAL.
J-LO.COM?
THE MOUSE! IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN! IT JUST BROUGHT ME HERE!
SHELTON

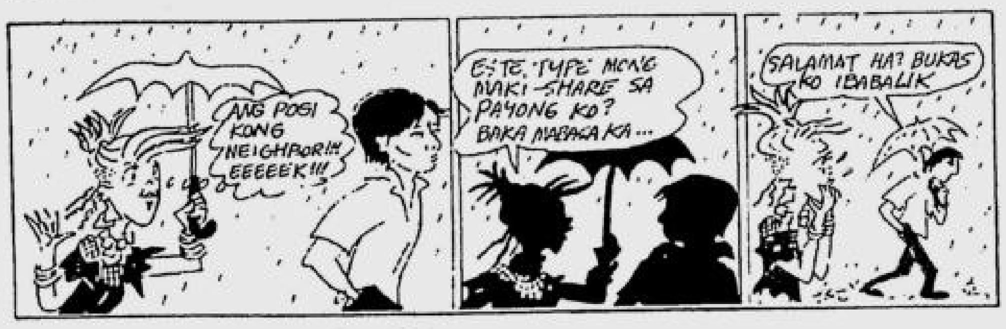
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KWENTUHANG KANTO
RAK en ROL SUMMER FUN!
haay BUHAY...
WALA LANG... NAISIP KO E ME OKS SIGURO NA IDAGDAG NA SUBJECT SA MGA COLLEGE EH...
O BAKIT? hehe...
TIPONG... KWAN... "DEFENSE AGAINST EXPLOITATION 101"? GANUN!... 'YUN ANG MAGAGAMIT TALAGA PAGKA-GRADUATE! PUTIK! hehe... HUOCH!
HAH! KUNG AKO, MAS OKS "NUMEROLOGY 101"! PAMPA-TAAS NG TSANSA SA LOTTO! 'YUN ANG MAGAGAMIT TALAGA PAGKA-GRADUATE! HAHA!
O' NGA... HOW TRUE!...
'DI BA? RAK en ROL!

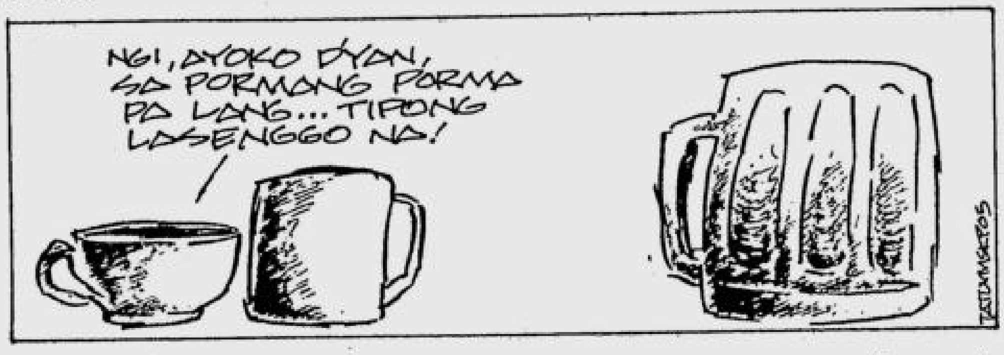
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG POGI KONG NEIGHBOR!!! EEEEEK!!!
ESTE, TYPE MONG MAKI-SHARE SA PAYONG KO? BAKA MABASA KA...
SALAMAT HA? BUKAS KO IBABALIK

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI, AYOKO D'YAN, SA PORMANG PORMA PA LANG... TIPONG LASENGGO NA!
TATUMSGT05

Manay Ichu honored for contributions to film industry

By Lena Strait Pareja

(Conclusion)

CENSORSHIP has always been the bane of local film production, but more so during the Martial Law years, because of the policy of prior restraint initiated by the generals in the Board of Censors. A movie script was required to be submitted to the board before filming could start.

Model

To show that there was no need for prior restraint, and that movie producers could exercise self-censorship within the industry itself, *Manay* Ichu and the Film Academy of the Philippines established their own version of an industry review and classification board to serve as a model.

Scriptwriter-director NUT headed the FACB (Film Academy Classification Board) and proved that "classification" instead of "cutting or censoring" films produced better results.

When Martial Law was lifted in the 1980s, reforms instituted led to the establishment of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board or the MTRCB, as it is known today.

Then and now, oppressive taxation was the biggest problem of the industry. When nothing could be done to lower the taxes, *Manay* Ichu turned the problem around so that incentives in the form of amusement tax rebates would instead be given to producers of quality films.

This led to the establishment of the Film Ratings Board in 1982, headed by Marcos Roces, under the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines.

After ECP closed down following the EDSA uprising, President Fidel Ramos revived the FRB under the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines, Inc., led by Cirio H. Santiago. Today, it is known as the Cinema Evaluation Board, under the Film Development Council of the Philippines, headed by Laurice Guillen.

Classics

Manay Ichu also established a Film Fund under Imee Marcos' ECP, which helped finance the production of Filipino film classics like Peque Gallaga's "Oro Plata Mata."

The 20-year odyssey that *Manay* Ichu undertook to combat high taxes and film piracy has resulted in the creation of the Videogram Regulatory Board, and the passage of several bills that have become laws: Republic Acts No. 9167 (on film ratings) and 3883 (on film piracy).

Last but not least is her achievement with the International Film Festival Committee (IFFCOM), which enables local films to participate in film festivals here and abroad.

In this effort, *Manay* Ichu was given tremendous support by a government subsidy initiated by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

In the past decade, during a hiatus in her movie production activities, she devoted her time to television production (through sister Gina de Venecia's TV show, "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap") .

When asked if she has any plans to continue making movies, *Manay* Ichu answers in the affirmative: "Motion pictures pervade every aspect of Filipino life. It is a potent weapon for the dissemination of right thinking and fair values.

Competitive

"If we make good films, then we can be competitive internationally. Excellent films cost money. We are in disarray because we lack funds, not because we lack talent.

"I am confident that this slump is only temporary. This, too, shall pass. What holds us together is our love for the cinema. Right now, we can't even see the light at the end of the tunnel. But, when you hit rock bottom, there is no other way to go but up!"

MACEDA. Better results from classification than censorship.

BRODY (WITH VERA FARMIGA, RIGHT). Plays an eccentric who dreams of becoming a ventriloquist in 'Dummy.'

Mothers' month on Hallmark

MONTAGE

THIS month, the Hallmark Channel honors mothers with these and other moving and heartwarming films (all at 9 p.m.):

May 8, "Blackwater Lightship." The themes of life, death and the ever-shifting dynamics of family unfold, driven by a tragedy that draws three estranged generations together.

Helen (Gina McKee) has learned that her brother Declan is dying of AIDS, and has to break the grave news to their emotionally cold mother, Lily (Dianne Wiest), from whom they've been estranged for years.

May 15, "Scar Tissue." A family shares stories and laughs, but the ideal picture hides the anxiety and suffering that Alzheimer's disease brings. Only by confounding his mother's illness can Daniel find a way to conquer his demons and find enlightenment.

May 22, "Spin." Orphaned, Eddie is left under the care of his uncle Frank, but a stint abroad leaves Frank no choice but to have Eddie raised by foster parents. Ten years later, Frank comes back, and he and Eddie have to come to terms with the many issues that they've put on hold.

May 29, "Dummy." Adrien Brody plays an eccentric who dreams of becoming a ventriloquist, and Milla Jovovich is a punk rocker. The two misfits find a lot in each other to like when they're hired as entertainers at a wedding party.

Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards

On May 22 at the NBC Tent, the 2005 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice awards will be held. So, Nick kids, don't miss your chance to make your favorite count. Vote for your favorite celebrity, music performer, TV show, movie and book—and don't forget the Pinoy Wannabe Award, for the celebrity you want to be like!

Vote online at http:/www.nickplat.com/kca/phils, or by texting KCA and sending it to 373 to get voting instructions (open to Smart subscribers only).

If you're a Smart Kid user, your text votes are converted to raffle entries that could win one of 50 Motorola C300 cellphones from Smart, or a family trip to the Nickelodeon suites at Holiday Inn, Orlando, Florida, USA on May 27. Nickelodeon's website: www.nicksplat.com.

Loyalty rewards

All guests who place their orders at Richmonde Hotel's Exchange Bar between 8 p.m. and midnight will be given a Loyalty Card, which entitles them to rewards like wines, free buffet lunches at Richmonde Grill, and complimentary overnight accommodations. Call 638-7777 ext. 3401.

Gary V and Kevyn Lettau at Podium

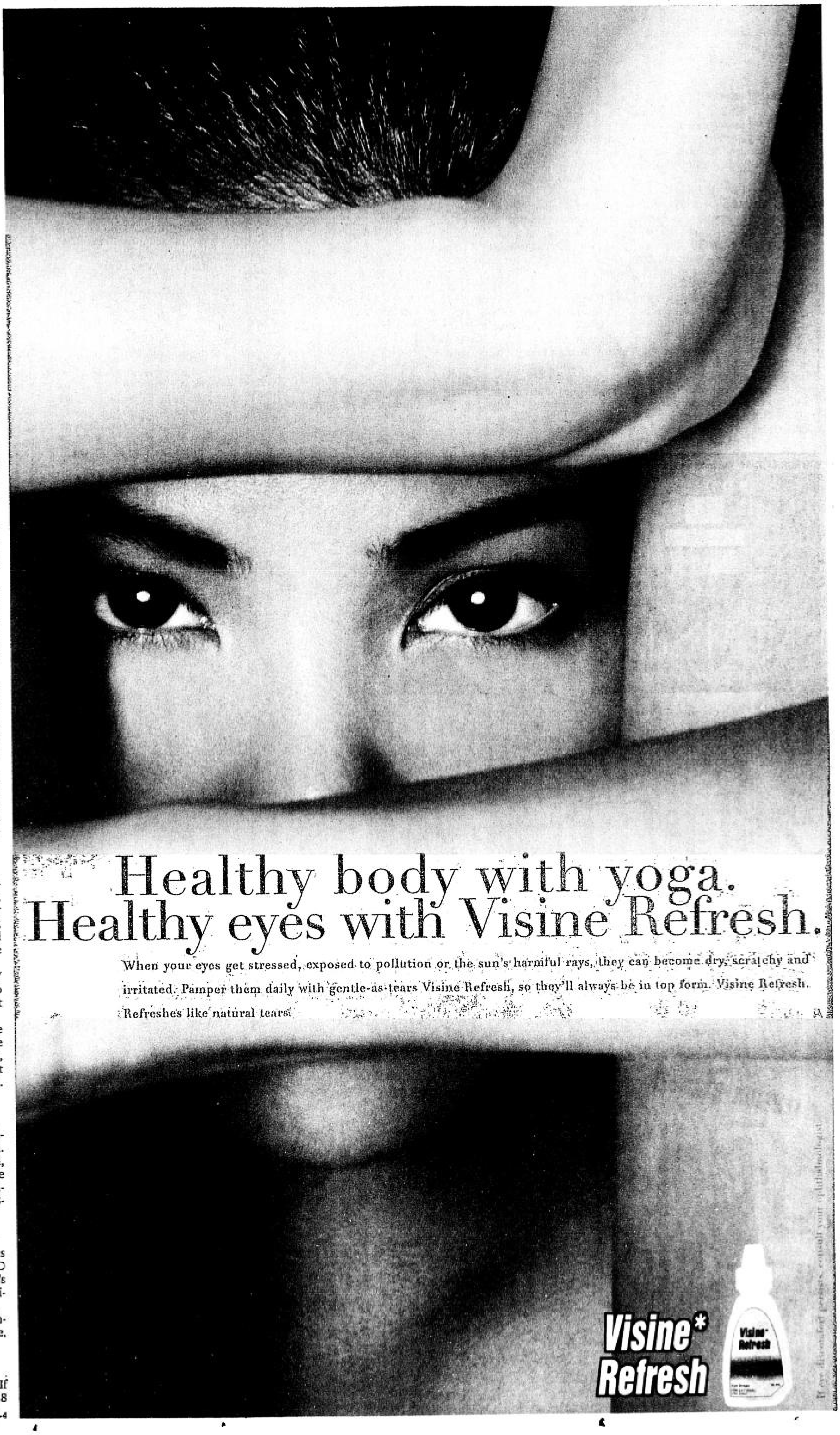
At 6 p.m. today at Podium, Gary V performs cuts from "Soul Full," his newly-released CD and videoke, On May 15, it's Kevyn Lettau's turn to wow the Podium crowd with her captivating rendition of well-loved hits.

Both shows are sponsored by Fuzion Smoothie Café (at Robinsons Galleria's Rodeo Drive, Greenhills Promenade and Tomas Morato).

Movies on TV

On HBO, May 7 at 1:45 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." 11:35 p.m., "Analyze That." May 8

MOTHERS'/A4-4



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When your eyes get stressed, exposed to pollution or the sun's harmful rays, they can become dry, scratchy and irritated. Pamper them daily with gentle-as-tears Visine Refresh, so they'll always be in top form. Visine Refresh. Refreshes like natural tears.

Nicole Kidman casts spell in film version of 'Bewitched'

By Nestor U. Torre

ONCE mainly famous for being superhunk Tom Cruise's wife, Nicole Kidman has moved on after their divorce and come into her own as a major movie luminary in her own right.

From "Moulin Rouge" and "The Hours" to "The Stepford Wives" and "The Interpreter," Kidman has topbilled one important film project after another, and has surprised everyone with her intensity, creativity and versatility as a performer.

For our part, however, we weren't surprised, because we warmed up to Kidman's talent very early in her screen career—as early as the film ("To Die For") where she played a young and ambitious woman who was determined to become a TV luminary in the sphere of news and public affairs.

KIDMAN. Her thespic promise has been impressively fulfilled.

Textured character

Aside from Kidman's obvious beauty, we were also impressed with her thespic savvy, her ability to create a textured character and make her understandable to viewers in all of her complexity.

Fast-forward to Kidman's latest starrer, "The Interpreter," and we see that her thespic promise, so clearly hinted at in her early films, has been impressively fulfilled. She has learned how to be more selective about her acting options, so that she can communicate more by doing less.

Indubitably, Cruise's harsh rejection of Kidman after so many years of marriage has further steeled her sense of artistic resolve, providing her with an emotional and psychological urgency that has made her subsequent performances focused and intense.

But, all those demanding thespic challenges can make inordinate demands on an actor's emotional resources, so Kidman is opting to play it lighter and breezier with her new film, "Bewitched."

The movie version of the hit sitcom casts Kidman in Elizabeth Montgomery's original TV role as a white witch in suburbia, who uses her occult powers to make life more magical for her family and neighbors—with comical repercussions, of course!

Mirrors

Kidman prepared for the role by encouraging the imaginative child in her to reemerge. Also, she spent a week in front of mirrors, practising the signature nose wiggle that her character needed to perform to "switch on" her "bewitching" powers.

In the movie version of "Bewitched," Kidman's character puts the hex on Will Ferrell, who plays a bumptious, self-centered actor who keeps getting her goat.

Creativity

The compleat professional that she is, Kidman is crafting her character in her new comedy-fantasy film with the same creativity and care that she devotes to her more "serious" portrayals.

And yet, she reminds herself that all that "homework" should remain invisible, so that her performance will hit the audience with a lighter, more whimsical touch, so that the production can effectively cast a humorously magical spell on viewers.

Goldie Hawn shares her spiritual journey

NEW YORK—From the start, Goldie Hawn knew what kind of book she *didn't* want to write: No salacious details, no tell-all, behind-the-scenes gossipfest about everyone she's met in the entertainment industry over the last 30 years.

It took a while to pin it down, but she figured out the book she wanted—something that would be somewhat *about* her, but would also touch on the things everyone goes through in life.

"I tried to do it in such a way that I wouldn't feel any different from anybody else," she told The Associated Press recently, on the release date for her memoir, "A Lotus Grows in the Mud."

"We all share in life's journey—the emotions that come up and the difficulties that arise—that's what life does," Hawn said.

HAWN. "The lotus does grow in the mud."

Chronological

The book is roughly chronological, moving from her childhood to her days as a dancer to her acting career—and from her first marriage to her relationship with longtime partner Kurt Russell and her children.

But, it's less about recounting events than it is about using particular memories to discuss specific emotions and philosophies.

So the chapter that illustrates her belief in the importance of prayer and faith is about the medical concerns surrounding the birth of her son, Oliver.

To illustrate her feelings about power, she talks about the problems she faced in making the movie, "Swing Shift." Other sections talk about her feelings on success, relationships among siblings, mothers and daughters, and facing the death of loved ones.

"I wrote it for anyone who is interested in transformation, transition or understanding that the lotus does grow in the mud," said Hawn.

Encounter

The title of the book comes from an encounter she had with a Tibetan monk, who used the example of the lotus as a symbol of the human spirit, and said it could only grow when faced with the challenges and obstacles of life. It's about living without fear, said Hawn, who turns 60 in November.

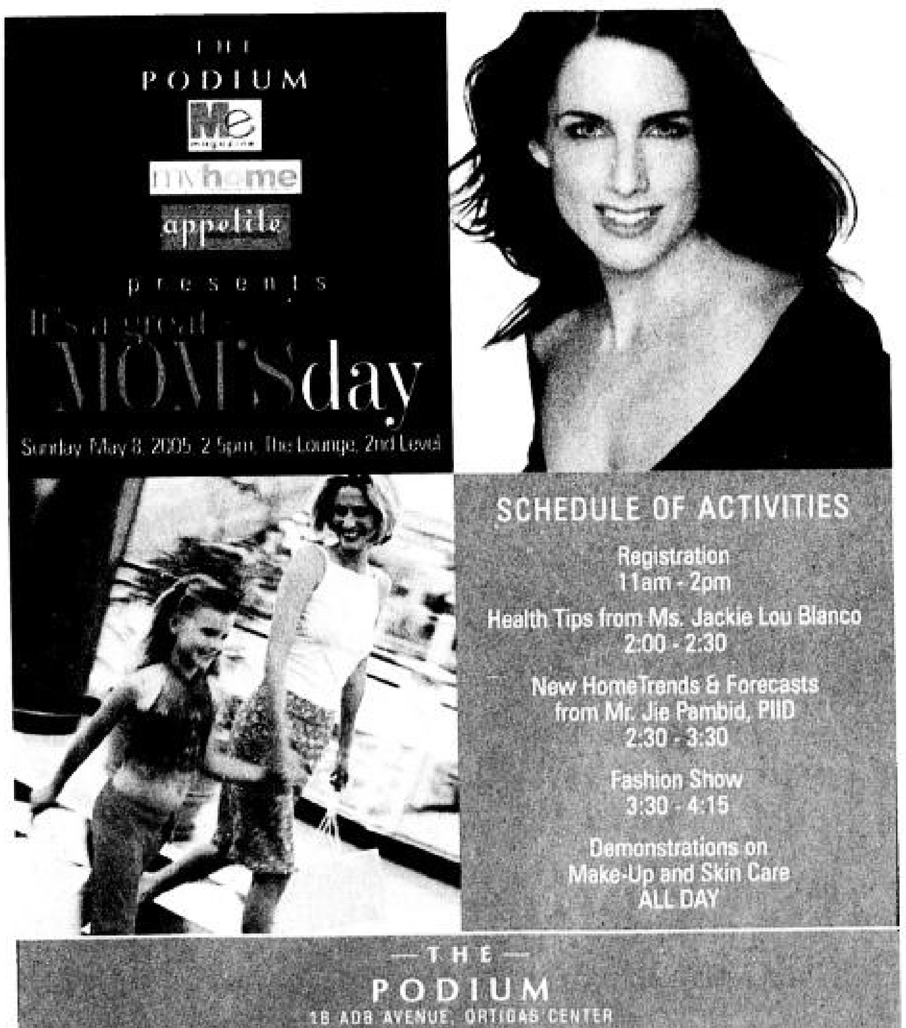
"I'm not a master at this, but I am continually trying to learn these lessons," she said. "As life goes on, let it go, it's going to do what it's going to do, and the outcome is what you need to know."

The book isn't the only way Hawn is trying to share her outlook. About a year ago, she founded the Bright Light Foundation, an organization that focuses on finding ways to teach children how to handle negative emotions and anger, and finding different ways to resolve conflict.

No intention

Although she has no intention of leaving the film industry—she's written a movie script and plans to direct it—she's enjoying her work with the foundation and what it's trying to do.

"Acting is a total blast—I love it, but I'm also loving what I'm learning, and I love working with children, learning new science, and moving into worlds where I go to conferences to talk to people about things that are new to me," Hawn said. "I'm having a lot of fun!" *AP*



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Me magazine
myhome
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Sunday May 8, 2005, 2-5pm, The Lounge, 2nd Level

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
Registration
11am - 2pm
Health Tips from Ms. Jackie Lou Blanco
2:00 - 2:30
New HomeTrends & Forecasts
from Mr. Jie Pambid, PIID
2:30 - 3:30
Fashion Show
3:30 - 4:15
Demonstrations on
Make-Up and Skin Care
ALL DAY

—THE—
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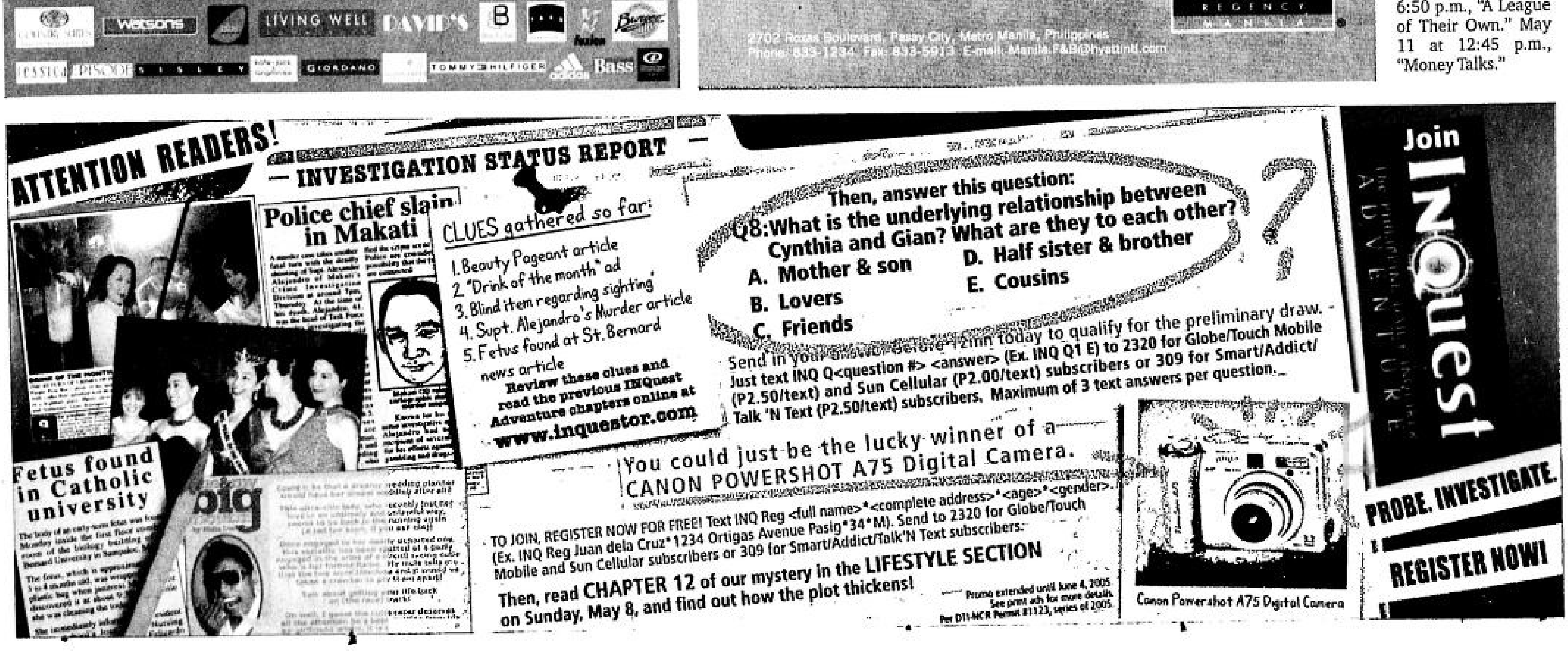
Mothers' month

From page A4-3

at 12:45 p.m., "Gattaca." 4 p.m., "About Schmidt." 1:05 a.m., "Normal." May 9 at 9 p.m., "Babe." May 10 at 9:10 a.m., "Lost in Translation." 1:55 p.m., "The Mirror Has Two Faces." 8:05 p.m., "Raiders of the Lost Ark." May 11 at 10:25 a.m., "Frances." 11:20 p.m., "Zoolander."

On Cinemax, May 7 at 9 p.m., "A Perfect World." May 8 at 10:45 a.m., "The Cowboy Way." 10:45 p.m., "The Ring." May 9 at 6 a.m., "The Great Race." 2:45 p.m., "Deconstructing Sarah." May 10 at 7:45 a.m., "The Sum of All Fears." 12 noon, "Truman." 6:50 p.m., "A League of Their Own." May 11 at 12:45 p.m., "Money Talks."



ATTENTION READERS!
— INVESTIGATION STATUS REPORT —
Police chief slain in Makati
Fetus found in Catholic university
CLUES gathered so far:
1. Beauty Pageant article
2. "Drink of the month" ad
3. Blind item regarding sighting
4. Supt. Alejandro's Murder article
5. Fetus found at St. Bernard news article
Review these clues and read the previous INQuest Adventure chapters online at www.inquestor.com

Then, answer this question:
Q8: What is the underlying relationship between Cynthia and Gian? What are they to each other?
A. Mother & son
B. Lovers
C. Friends
D. Half sister & brother
E. Cousins

Send in your answer before 12mn today to qualify for the preliminary draw. Just text INQ Q<question #> <answer> (Ex. INQ Q1 E) to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile (P2.50/text) and Sun Cellular (P2.00/text) subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text (P2.50/text) subscribers. Maximum of 3 text answers per question.

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Then, read CHAPTER 12 of our mystery in the LIFESTYLE SECTION on Sunday, May 8, and find out how the plot thickens!

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Forex reserves reach 11-month high of $16.7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' gross international reserves hit an 11-month high of $16.7 billion in end-April from $16.53 billion in end-March, beefed up by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' dollar purchases and offshore investments.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said that the big inflows from the BSP's foreign exchange operations and income from investments abroad "were partly offset by the foreign exchange requirements for repayments of the NG (national government) and the BSP (maturing obligations)."

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is seen as an indicator of the country's ability to service its foreign exchange requirements.

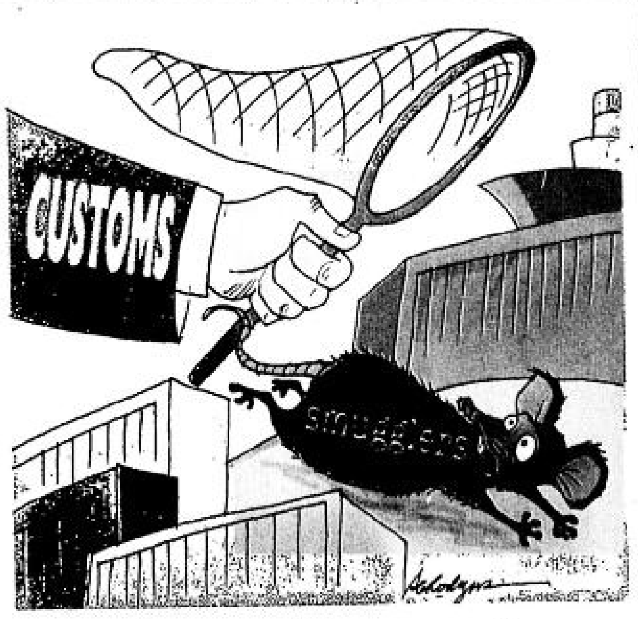
Tetangco said the current GIR level was adequate to cover about 3.8 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income. "Alternatively, this level was equivalent to 3.5 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.7 times based on residual maturity," he said.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt at original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Tetangco also reported that the BSP's net international reserves as of end-April, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, increased to $15.56 billion or 1.1 percent better than last month's level of $15.39 billion.

The BSP recently raised its GIR target range this year by $1 billion to $16-$17 billion, taking advantage of much-improved foreign inflows to beef up its war chest against rising oil prices.

The GIR build-up since the start of the year was also aided by proceeds from public sector borrowings. For instance, there was a big jump in the GIR level in the month of February due mainly to the deposit by the national government with the BSP of the proceeds from the global bond issue due in 2030.



Gov't readies major anti-smuggling drive

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Customs is set to launch a massive anti-smuggling campaign called the "RATS" (run after smugglers) program, a move that will complete the government's three-pronged approach to fight graft and corruption in major revenue-collecting agencies.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said a new strategy was needed to put teeth into the government's efforts against the perennial problem of smuggling. The problem has been blamed by legitimate businesses as a major reason affecting their competitiveness.

Purisima said RATS, which is targeted to begin this month, would complement the Department of Finance's two other anti-corruption programs, namely the "RATE" (run after tax evaders) and the "RIPS" (revenue integrity protection service).

GOV'T/B2

P&G to invest ₱1.5B in RP in next 3 years

PROCTER & Gamble, the country's leading maker of quality consumer products, is pumping in P1.5 billion in new investments in the Philippines in the next three years.

The move aims to make the country a major manufacturing and service hub for the Asian region.

The investment was announced by The P&G Co. chair, president and chief executive Alan G. Lafley during the company's 70th anniversary celebration last Thursday. He said the company was adding P1.5 billion to its already enormous investments in the country.

"Aside from P&G's additional investment, we are also expanding operations through our Manila Service Center by providing services in areas like accounting and business information, to more P&G operations in other parts of the world," Lafley said in his speech during the dinner held at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The Manila Service Center provides accounting services to various P&G offices in the world.

Guests, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, lauded P&G's act, which will help empower the government in terms of more revenues for economic pump-priming and the Filipinos in terms of increased incomes.

Also during the anniversary dinner, Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Juan B. Santos honored P&G with the Gawad Perlas ng Silangan (Order of the Pearl of the Orient) award in recognition of its invaluable contribution to the country and its sustained confidence in and commitment to the Filipino worker.

Santos said the award recognizez P&G's vital support of the Philippine economy, helping Filipinos become major players in the global business environment.

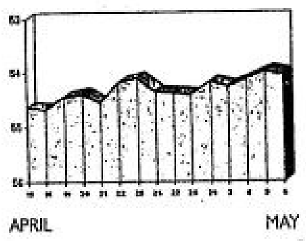
The company also marked its 70th year in the country by donating 70 houses to Gawad Kalinga in support of the government's housing program for the poor.

The houses, to be built in Cabuyao, Laguna, where P&G's plant is located, are part of the group's commitment to nation-building and helping uplift the communities it serves.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱54.030= $1

As of 5 p.m., May 6, 2005

¥104.75= $1

As of 5 p.m., May 6, 2005

GOLD: $430.50-431.00

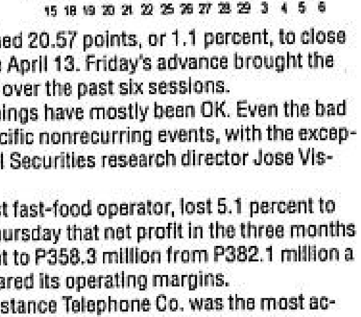
per ounce Hong Kong, May 6, 2005

May 6, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.771784	1.000000	53.9760
Japan	Yen	0.007391	0.009577	0.5169
United Kingdom	Pound	1.470634	1.905500	102.8513
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.099051	0.128340	6.9273
Switzerland	Franc	0.646981	0.838293	45.2477
Canada	Dollar	0.620255	0.803665	43.3786
Singapore	Dollar	0.471981	0.611546	33.0088
Australia	Dollar	0.602297	0.780396	42.1227
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.047225	2.652590	143.1762
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.205798	0.266652	14.3928
Brunei	Dollar	0.470543	0.609682	32.9082
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019571	0.025358	1.3687
UAE	Dirham	0.210129	0.272264	14.6957
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.295700	69.9367
Argentina	Peso	0.266592	0.345423	18.6446
Brazil	Real	0.312463	0.404858	21.8526
Denmark	Kroner	0.134354	0.174083	9.3963
India	Rupee	0.017812	0.023079	1.2457
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.203128	0.263193	14.2061
Mexico	New Peso	0.070686	0.091588	4.9436
New Zealand	Dollar	0.566488	0.733999	39.6183
Norway	Kroner	0.123336	0.159806	8.6257
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012975	0.016812	0.9074
South Africa	Rand	0.129392	0.167653	9.0492
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001000	0.0540
Sweden	Kroner	0.109149	0.141425	7.6336
Syria	Pound	0.014868	0.019264	1.0398
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024856	0.032206	1.7384
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000360	0.000466	0.0252

STOCK MARKET

Shares end 1.1% higher on positive income results

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



THE MAIN stock index rose yesterday for the sixth straight session, closing at a three-week high following the release of generally positive first-quarter corporate results, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 20.57 points, or 1.1 percent, to close at 1,913.77, its best finish since April 13. Friday's advance brought the index's total gain to 4.6 percent over the past six sessions.

"First-quarter corporate earnings have mostly been OK. Even the bad ones were caused by some specific nonrecurring events, with the exception of Jollibee," said AB Capital Securities research director Jose Vistan.

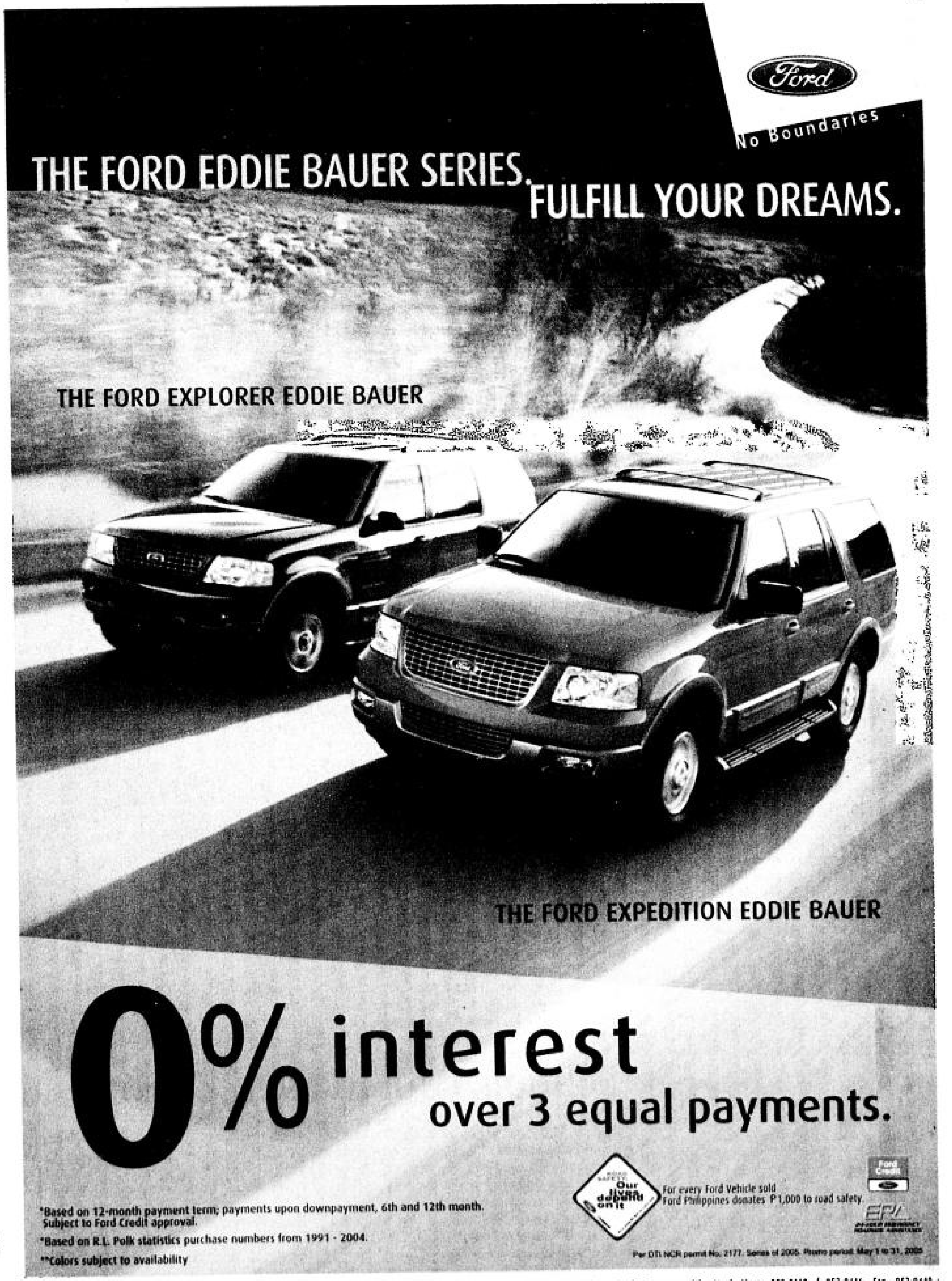
Jollibee, the country's largest fast-food operator, lost 5.1 percent to close at P28 after it reported Thursday that net profit in the three months to March contracted 6.2 percent to P358.3 million from P382.1 million a year ago. It said higher costs pared its operating margins.

Blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, up 0.4 percent at P1,415, following the 2-percent gain in the company's American depositary receipts Thursday.

The country's biggest telecommunications group, together with Ayala Land and Bank of the Philippine Islands, had earlier reported positive first-quarter results.

Ayala Land gained 2.5 percent to close at P8.10, and BPI rose 4.1 percent to P50.50.

Other active stocks included Pilipino Telephone, up 8.1 percent at P3.35, after the mobile phone company reported Thursday a first-quarter net profit of P2.2 billion—a huge improvement from the restated P21 million net loss for the same period last year. AP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Lesser of two e-bills

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS is getting scary.

While this cute administration of Gloriaetta is doing its best to do nothing about the so-called "crisis situation" in the pre-need industry, who should step forward to help ease the panic among the pre-need public?

Well, he is none other than Alfonso Yuchengco, a former ambassador, also known in business as a taipan, head of a multi-billion-peso business conglomerate in banking, insurance, and ... well, almost everything.

Yuchengco just committed to give his own money to help the education plan beneficiaries of the troubled pre-need firm Pacific Plan. The man is personally raising funds (from out of his own resources, I was told), amounting to P250 million.

I don't know about you, but I can surely use P250 million, for instance, to buy my own helicopter, so that I can avoid the heavy traffic in this metropolis, where nobody seems to be in charge, and, thus, I can save on my gasoline bill.

I am not too hard to please, really.

***

ANYWAY, before my power of persuasion makes Yuchengco give that P250 million to me instead, I am only saying that P250 million, anyway you look at it, is still P250 million. It must hurt to give away that much money!

To think, legally, Yuchengco has no obligation to give me all that money ... I mean, no, not that, but that he will actually not go to jail, if Pacific Plan collapses.

Pacific Plan is a corporation. In the legal world, if Pacific Plan goes bankrupt, that's it. You cannot just go to the houses of its stockholders, say, to get their last pairs of underwear—used or unused, clean or soiled, with holes or without.

Let us even assume that Pacific Plan made some bad business decisions. For instance, when it started more than 30 years ago, it failed to foresee that, only 20 years later, our government would allow our benevolent schools to raise their tuition somewhere up there in the vicinity of the stratosphere.

It was a bad decision for Pacific Plan, right? In this country, where government policies change faster than Kris Aquino can change boyfriends, when you go into business, you must be able to predict everything, particularly major events such as the Second Coming, to the exact second that it will happen.

Pacific Plan's bad business judgment of failing to hire psychics and prophets, nevertheless, was not Yuchengco's fault. I could give the man more credit than just legal obligation for giving away P250 million. He did not have to do it.

***

WE are talking here about a shrewd businessman. In his time, not many in the business community would dare to cross swords with Yuchengco in any business deal. Am I right or what, Robert?

But the affairs of Pacific Plan are different. I don't think that, in his heart of hearts, Yuchengco is looking at this as just another business transaction. Lives—real breathing human beings—are involved here.

If Pacific Plan goes under, there also goes the dream of thousands of if its planholders for their children to get good education. To avoid bankruptcy, Pacific Plan has a rehab plan. This needs money. Okay—tons of money!

And so let's just say that Yuchengco's giving away P250 million of his personal money, is the soft heart in the man. And that, as I said in the beginning, scares me. I don't want our business moguls getting soft. This is a dog eat dog business world, I tell you.

***

IN THE EARLY 1980s, for the sake of our action stars in the Senate, a similar crisis erupted in the banking system.

At that time, businesses were collapsing like the lungs of heavy smokers.

Unfortunately, those businesses owed a lot of money, and they owed it to banks and the public.

Thus, everybody (i.e. the few people who have 90 percent of the country's wealth) was rushing to get their investments out of banks and investments houses.

To ease the panic, the now defunct Central Bank decided to open to the financial system a lending window. BAILOUT was how media called it.

But that was the only way to calm down the public. Moreover, the Central Bank exacted a stiff price from the owners of the troubled businesses.

They had to infuse fresh funds, and if they could not, they had to give up some if not all of their businesses.

The difference between then and now is that, now, this popularity-challenged cute administration of Gloriaetta is not doing anything at all about the preneed "crisis."

Understandably, it is busy trying to raise its popularity rating.

***

IF ANYTHING, under the cute administration, the SEC was even causing all the panic by leaking "information" to media about the problems of certain pre-need companies.

Luckily, things have changed at the SEC, under its new chair, Fe Barin, who was with the Central Bank during the crisis time in the 1980s.

Barin was only the long-time lawyer of the Monetary Board, the policy making body of the country, when it was overseeing a terrible crisis.

She is no stranger to this kind of problem. And so slowly, the SEC is changing its combative stance against the industry under its former chair.

***

ACTUALLY, the SEC will need help from other sectors, if we are going to solve this crisis once and for all. The school system is not the least of them.

The main problem of the pre-need industry, at least as far as the education plans, is the rapid and sharp increase in tuition.

The figures are actually frightening. Based on reports, in one nursing school, for instance, Pacific Plan paid P28,000 during the first year of college of one particular education plan beneficiary.

It went up to P45,000 for the second year of the course, and then to P75,000 for the third year, and finally to P91,000 for the fourth year.

I think something must be done about that kind of abuse.

Sure, for us parents who bought education plans, we can just go to the streets to force the pre-need companies to shoulder that kind of exploitation.

But what will happen to those who do not have education plans? Do their kids just grow up to become action stars in the Senate?

***

NOW THE other side of the coin is this: the investment opportunity in this country is not that great either for the pre-need firms to earn enough to cover even just, er, MILD increases in tuition.

For example, based on an actual case, Pacific Plan sold an education plan to customer in 1990, collecting as total of P13,800 all in all, through annual installment on the plan.

By the time the planholder was through billing Pacific Plan, the company already spent something like P308,021—and for just one beneficiary.

Actually, no investment in this country—or in whole world—can give you that kind of return. In our actual example, the return to the planholder was more than 2,000 percent, after Pacific Plan paid for all the school bills.

For the pre-need company, therefore, to cover for such a wonderful increase in tuition, it must earn from its investments close to 35 percent a year.

Again, no investment in this country can make that kind of money. And this is true, even if it is a company under Yuchengco.

Well, maybe you will make that kind of money if you go into illegal drugs or *jueteng*. Heck, you don't even need capital for those "businesses." You just burn in hell, that's all.

For planholders, the alternative is to put their money in pyramiding schemes, or bet it in Internet gambling schemes, where the promised return can run up to 60 percent a year. The only problem is, in both virtual and actual rackets, you don't see your money again.

Is this problem thus a question of the lesser of two, well, e-bills? To me, the evil in the preneed today is that we think it is just the problem of the businesses. The schools must pitch in, I guess.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 6, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	17,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	28	28.5	27.5	27.5	275,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	50.5	49	50.5	1,844,700
China Banking Corp.	680	770	680	770	3,770
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	960,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47	47	47	47	33,500
International Exch. Bank	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	58,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33.5	32.5	33.5	1,054,200
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	16,060
Philippine National Bank	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	50,000
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	32	32	5,200
Security Bank Corp.	27	27	27	27	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	27	26	26.5	83,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	280	280	280	280	200
Manulife Financial Corp.	2470	2470	2470	2470	50
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	46,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1685	1685	1685	1685	2,830
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	10,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	3,161,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	835	830	835	27,620
Ipeople Inc.	4	4.05	4	4.05	105,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	1,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.35	6,260,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1415	1425	1410	1415	139,500
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	3,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	17	17	16.75	16.75	9,500
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24.5	23.75	24	1,082,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	4,475,000
Petron Corp.	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.55	4,192,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	124,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	276,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	115,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	600,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.67	1,210,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	1,640,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	470,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	29	28	28	113,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57	58	157,600
San Miguel Corp. B	83.5	84	83	84	94,400
Universal Robina Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	171,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7.1	7	7.1	2,781,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	7,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	250,000
APC Group Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	620,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	22,000,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.06	1	1	10,711,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	90,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,250,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	5,810,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.55	528,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	5,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.34	248,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.1	343,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47	48	47	48	635,400
House of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	160,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	6,747,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.38	35,010,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	600,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	250	249	250	170,170
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	5,420,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	1,000,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.48	1.5	3,026,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	28,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8.2	8	8.1	12,294,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.27	2,690,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	24,580,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.58	1.48	1.56	6,682,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.1	5.3	4.95	5	600,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	7,299,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	35,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5	5	4.95	4.95	143,000
Benguet Corp. A	10.25	10.25	9.8	9.8	102,400
Benguet Corp. B	50	50	50	50	700
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,980,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,730,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	34,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	64,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	480,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	33	33	33	33	653,200
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	180,000

Petron opens $100-M facility, commits $350M in investments

By Abigail L. Ho

LIMAY, Bataan—Industry leader Petron Corp. has committed to invest around $350 million in the next five to eight years to bankroll several projects that will strengthen its refinery operations and expand its product base.

In an interview on the sidelines of the inauguration of its Clean Air Act (CAA)-compliant facilities yesterday, Petron president and chief executive Khalid Al-Faddagh said the oil firm was now preparing for future business opportunities, both in the domestic and international markets.

"We have a bigger vision for the business so we're planning ahead. Our masterplan, which still has to be evaluated, will need around $350 million [to implement]," he told reporters.

The various projects under the company's master plan, he said, would have to be evaluated for their "economic merits, viability and ensure that they will complement each other."

He, however, added that the $350-million planned investment was already a firm commitment.

In the next five to eight years, the projects under the company's masterplan will be implemented based on a timing scheme that will complement the company's existing business.

He said these projects aimed to upgrade and modernize the oil firm's refinery, as well as create a specialty refinery stream that can be sold in markets outside the Philippines.

One project under the masterplan, for example, involves taking the residues from fuel refining and processing this further into something that the company can export.

"We need to start with units that will give us the highest returns. We're not just looking at retail. Our refinery is a major asset to us. It is the most important part of our supply chain," he said.

"We've decided to stay and modernize our refinery. There are so many opportunities that can be created," he added.

Petron yesterday inaugurated its $100 million worth of new facilities at its Bataan refinery, making the company the first in the country to be able to produce its own CAA-compliant fuel.

Petron's new Gasoil Hydrotreater (GOHT) and Light Virgin Naphtha Isomerization unit (Isom) have the capacity to produce 22,000 barrels and 10,000 barrels a day, respectively, of CAA-compliant diesel and gasoline.

The GOHT reduces the sulfur content in diesel, while the Isom allows the production of gasoline containing only 35 percent of aromatics and 2 percent of benzene, as prescribed by the CAA.

When the CAA was passed in 1999, local oil firms had to import finished products or blending components to be able to comply with the law's stringent production specifications.

Even refiners like Petron and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. had to rely on imported products as they both did not have the capability to produce CAA-compliant fuels.

CebuPac seeks guarantee cover for $300-M loan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GOKONGWEI-OWNED Cebu Pacific Air is asking three Europe-based export credit companies to guarantee some $300 million in bank loans that would be used for the airline's refleeting program.

The export credit firms being tapped are Hermes of Germany, ECGD of the United Kingdom and the Coface Group of France.

Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said the airline was not keen at this time to tap the stock market for additional funds due to the poor market condition.

"Maybe sometime in the future [we will consider an initial public offering]. Now, we are not doing anything," Gokongwei said.

He said the first two planes—two Airbus 320s—were expected to come in by the end of this month.

Cebu Pacific currently has 11 DC9s that can seat 110 to 115 passengers and three Boeing 757s that can accommodate around 150 people.

Under its refleeting program, Cebu Pacific will replace its current fleet with 12 Airbus 319s that can seat 150 people and two 320s that can take in 180 passengers.

Earlier, Cebu Pacific announced the purchase of 12 new A319s and the lease of two A320s in a refleeting program aimed at expanding its domestic and regional services. The contract for the A319s had a list price of $670 million.

The A320s are due to arrive in the second quarter of this year. The first A319s will come by September 2005, followed by monthly deliveries until early 2007.

Cebu Pacific's revenue grew 21.6 percent to P7.41 billion last year from P6.09 billion due to improved domestic operations.

Schools cool to Pacific proposal

PACIFIC Plans Inc. said it had tried but failed to buy thousands of scholarships from various schools, to be paid in advance with 10-percent annual adjustment, for the holders of its open-ended educational plans.

In a statement, PPI said it had proposed this scheme to several schools in 2003 but only one school showed interest.

"The rest said 'no, we're not interested or simply did not respond to our letter," PPI president Ernesto Garcia said.

The advance purchase offer was one of the efforts Pacific Plans had tried push to ensure the uninterrupted schooling of its beneficiaries.

It also tried to buy back some of its plans even at higher prices because they would still be lower than the runaway tuition increases triggered by the 1990 school fees deregulation.

The buy-back approach was met with limited success since not too many were willing to sell their open-ended plans.

PPI stopped selling these plans in 1992, two years after the tuition deregulation started, to contain the financial injury to the company by the deregulation. Events would show that the decision was correct in terms of limiting the number of plans PPI would have to answer for.

As an example, the company said it was paid a total of P13,800 on installment for one open-ended plan that was fully paid in 1995.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **China Banking Corp.** were Gilbert Dee, Peter Dee, Hans Sy, Joaquin Dee, Dy Tiong, Herbert Sy, Henry Sy Jr., Harley Sy, Pilar Liao, Alberto Yao and Robert Kuan.

***

ELECTED directors of **Robinsons Land Corp.** were John Gokongwei Jr., James Go, Lance Gokongwei, Frederick Go, Patrick Henry Go, Johnson Robert Go Jr., Robina Gokongwei- Pe, Ignacio Gotao, Cesar Virtusio, Robert Coyiuto Jr. and Roberto de Ocampo.

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PHILIPPINE Long Distance Co. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 14, 4 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City.

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MARIWASA Manufacturing Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 26, 10:30 a.m. at the Balmori Function Rm., Peninsula Manila Hotel, Makati City.

***

PRIMEX Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27, 3 p.m. at the Marikina Function Room of the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City.

***

DIGITAL Telecommunications Phils. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 10 a.m. at the Amorsolo Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Galleria Mla., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. ***Compiled by Erika Sarmiento, PDI Research***

Gov't readies major ...

From page B1

Under the RATS program, the DOF and Customs would file charges against smugglers on a regular basis, either once a week or every two weeks, to discourage smuggling activities.

The DOF and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have been filing tax evasion charges every week under the RATE project against known businesses or celebrities to discourage the public from evading taxes. RIPS, on the other hand, is the DOF unit tasked with conducting lifestyle checks and the filing of graft and corruption charges against officials and employees of agencies under the Finance umbrella.

Purisima said the three programs were intended to curb the culture of dishonesty both in the private and public sectors. While corruption in government has been blamed for its fiscal problem, the DOF said the private sector also had its own share of accountability for the tendency of some to evade taxes and engage in smuggling.

With RATS, the BOC hopes to substantially curb smuggling, which has been estimated to cost the government some P200 billion in lost revenues a year. This means that by solving smuggling alone, the government can already wipe out its budget deficit, which is estimated to hit P180 billion this year.

Meanwhile, Purisima said that the DOF and the BIR were determined to subject tax evaders that will be caught under the RATE program to the full force of the law.

"The DOF and the BIR We will not entertain compromise settlements under the RATE program. The RATE program is intended to send a clear message to tax evaders that it is no longer business as usual," Purisima told reporters.

MAJOR BOOST

Filipino IT workers 'above average,' says study

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FILIPINO IT workers scored an average satisfaction rating of 83.7 percent. AFP

FILIPINO workers are "above average" compared to those of other countries handling outsourced business processes of multinational companies.

According to a survey that Fujitsu Philippines Inc. conducted between April 2004 and March 2005, local professionals involved in information technology scored an average of 83.7 percent satisfaction rating in terms of professionalism, knowledge and skills, responsiveness and promptness, and overall performance.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said the poll results were a major boost for local companies that wanted to work with Japanese firms in areas like Web-enabled applications, engineering design, and telecommunications and enterprise solutions.

The survey was conducted for FPI's subsidiary WeServ Systems International Inc., which it describes as the largest software development firms based in the country.

WeServe provides outsourced IT services for Fujitsu's international operations in the Asia Pacific, North America and other parts of the world.

"Japanese firms look to the Philippines for software development and related outsourcing requirements despite stiff competition from other countries," FPI said in a statement.

The company noted this as a contrast to the previous trend among Japanese firms of looking inward for their IT services needs, due to fears of sacrificing quality, confidentiality and timeliness.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that Japan is the third-largest IT services market in the world after North America and Europe.

Japan's IT services spending is projected to reach $120 billion in 2008, with a steady growth rate of 7.3 percent a year, which was better than the global figure of 5.7 percent and the US level of 5.8 percent.

In a bid to capture a wider market, WeServe and other local IT-enabled service firms are taking part in the Software Development Expo and Conference (Sodec) to be held in Tokyo from June 29 to July 1.

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DOF to review VAT plan for overseas calls

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance would review the plan to impose a value-added tax on overseas calls.

The DOF said the move could simplify the tax system for telecommunication companies.

Currently, only domestic calls are subjected to the 10-percent VAT, while overseas calls are charged a 10-percent overseas communications tax (OCT).

Telecommunication companies, including Sun Cellular and Globe Telecommunications, earlier asked government to charge VAT on overseas calls, instead of the OCT, claiming that having different kinds of sales taxes makes tax compliance difficult.

They explained that having two types of tax was an administrative hassle because it required them to segregate overseas and domestic services in making their sales reports.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, however, earlier expressed reservations over subjecting overseas calls to VAT, saying it could reduce tax collection.

The BIR said telecommunication companies might pay lower taxes under VAT because it has an input credit feature, which allows taxpayers to deduct input VAT credits from their VAT liabilities (output VAT).

A DOF official, however, said the DOF would take a second look into the proposal as it was pushing for a simplified tax administration.

The official said, however, that the review of the proposal would be shelved for the moment because the DOF and Congress were still focused on finalizing the VAT reform bill still pending with the bicameral conference committee.

Court bars sale of Gotesco land

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court has prohibited Gotesco Land Inc. and chair and president Jose Go from selling or transferring shares, pieces of property and assets.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE),Gotesco Land said it received yesterday a notice of garnishment issued by the Regional Trial Court , Branch 50 in Manila relating to a case filed by Karen Go-Chan and Elvin Cokai against Go and Gotesco Land for an annulment of contract and claims for damages.

Gotesco officials were unavailable as of presstime despite repeated calls made by the INQUIRER to explain the facts of the case.

As of March, Go held roughly 14.4 percent of the shares in Gotesco Land.

Under the writ of attachment, levy was made upon all goods, effects, interests, credits, stocks, shares and other personal pieces of property belonging to Go and Gotesco Land.

These assets, thus, should not be delivered, transferred or sold except to the court sheriff.

The notice was issued last April 26. Gotesco said it only received the notice last Thursday.

Gotesco Land is the holding company for the property development projects of the Ever-Gotesco Group of Companies.

It was originally registered as Surigao Consolidated Mining Co. Inc., which was engaged in the exploration and mining of gold, silver, copper, and iron ore in Surigao del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur.

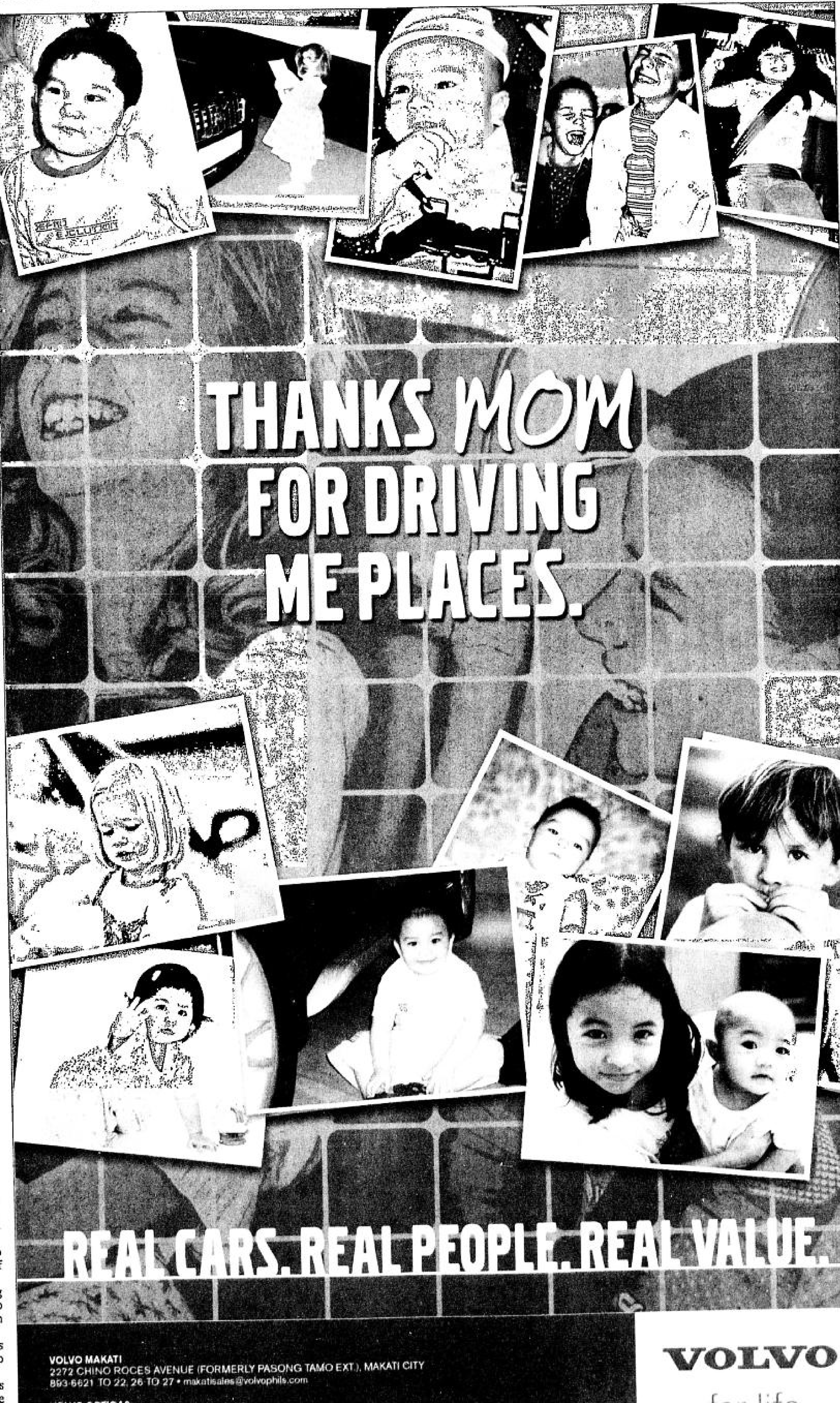
In 1992, the company changed its name to Suricon Resources Corp and saw the entry of the Ever Gotesco Group.

The company diversified into non-mining activities and amended its primary purpose to include property development with focus on leisure and resort development.

Its first venture into resort development was through its acquisition of the former Ever Gotesco Holdings Corp. owned by Jose Go and family.

As a real estate firm, it acquired interests principally involved in leisure or tourist estate developments.

The company was hit, however, by the 1997 Asian economic crisis that led to the temporary suspension of some of its affiliates' ongoing real-estate projects.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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites local ship building/ship repair companies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

1. Dry-docking and other related repairs of BRP MANGYAN (AS71) with an approved budget of **P7,760,337.65** chargeable against **Maintenance and Repair Program under SAA #0104M dtd 13 January 2005,** and
2. Dry-docking and repair of DIESEL FASTCRAFT 341 (DF341) with an approved budget of **P2,240,895.70** chargeable against **Maintenance and Repair Program under SAA #0106M dtd 13 January 2005.**

Contractors' whose shipyard facility is located outside Cebu province shall be responsible to tow the vessels as a dead ships from Captain Veloso Pier, Naval Operating Base Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City; Cebu, Philippines to their facility. Contractor shall also furnish total maritime insurance coverage specifically for, but not limited to, all liabilities of hull and machinery protection and indemnities during the conduct of towing operation. Said insurance shall be carried by a recognized and reputable underwriters and/or insurers such as AFPGIC.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **May 7, 2005 until June 7, 2005** during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the Office of the AFP BAC, G/F Bulwagang Syquio, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Pesos only (Php 7,760.00)** for the drydocking and other related repairs of **AS71**, and **Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Pesos only (Php 2,420.00)** for the drydocking and other related repairs of **DF341**. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the **Armed Forces of the Philippines.**

Representatives are required to present a **Special Power of Attorney,** issued by the prospective bidder before issuance of the Bid documents and all other transactions thereto.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on the following dates:

Nomenclature	*Date / Place*
Dry-docking and other Related Repairs of BRP MANGYAN (AS71)	**01 June 2005 at 9:00 A.M.** at the **HPN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**
Dry-docking and repair of DIESEL FASTCRAFT 341 (DF341)	**01 June 2005 at 11:00 A.M.** at the **HPN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**

Bidders who have inquiries must communicate in writing to the AFP Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat three (3) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

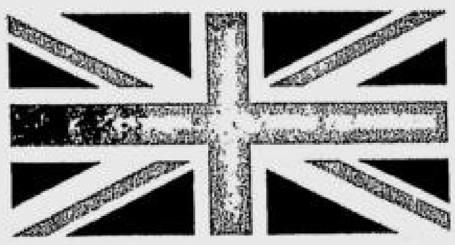
Deadline for submission and opening of bid documents are as follows:

Nomenclature	*Date/Place*
Dry-docking and other Related Repairs of BRP MANGYAN (AS71)	**13 June 2005** at **9:00 A.M.** at the **HPN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**
Dry-docking and repair of DIESEL FASTCRAFT 341 (DF341)	**13 June 2005** at **2:00 P.M.** at the **HPN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids pursuant to RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) **JORGE G NECESITO**
RADM AFP
Chairman

(PDI – May 7, 2005)



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUIS P. CHUALONG has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 139, Page No. 28, Book No. 150, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Rafael P. Mateo of Tanay, Rizal.
(April 30, May 7 & 14, 2005)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER
O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

NOTICE OF LOSS

The following stock certificates are reportedly lost:

SPI PUBLISHER SERVICES, INC.

Stock Cert. No.	No. of Shares	Issued to
001	1,000	Joe Merito Buot
002	1,000	Ernest L. Cu
003	1,000	Francisco H. Suarez, Jr.
004	1,000	Amelito P. Lopez
005	1,000	Maria Mina M. Rapadas

SPI HEALTHCARE DOCUMENTATION, INC.

Stock Cert. No.	No. of Shares	Issued to
001	1,000	Robert C. Cabalo
002	1,000	Ernest L. Cu
003	1,000	Francisco H. Suarez, Jr.
004	1,000	Amelito P. Lopez
005	1,000	Maria Mina M. Rapadas

SPI LITIGATION DIRECT, INC.

Stock Cert. No.	No. of Shares	Issued to
001	1,000	Marian V. Tabjan
002	1,000	Ernest L. Cu
003	1,000	Francisco H. Suarez, Jr.
004	1,000	Amelito P. Lopez
005	1,000	Maria Mina M. Rapadas

SPI SERVISOFT, INC.

Stock Cert. No.	No. of Shares	Issued to
001	1,000	John Michael T. Ticzon
002	1,000	Ernest L. Cu
003	1,000	Francisco H. Suarez, Jr.
004	1,000	Amelito P. Lopez
005	1,000	Maria Mina M. Rapadas

SPI CONTENT SCIENCES, INC.

Stock Cert. No.	No. of Shares	Issued to
001	26,995,000	SPI Technologies, Inc.
002	1,000	Ernest L. Cu
003	3,000,000	Ian Ballord
004	1,000	Francisco H. Suarez, Jr.
005	1,000	Roberto C. Cabalo
006	1,000	Amelito P. Lopez
007	1,000	Rico L. Kison

PACIFIC SPACE INTL DEVT CORP.

Stock Cert. No.	No. of Shares	Issued to
049	1	Rico L. Kison
048	1	Lucila C. Aguila

If no contest is received, the respective Companies will issue replacement certificates after one year from date of last publication of this notice, or even before expiration of said period provided the registered owner(s) files a bond or other securities in accordance with law.
(PDI–May 7 & 9, 2005)

USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential furniture and appliances; office furniture and equipment; computers; scrap/junk supplies; and Chevy, S-10, Pick up on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected May 9-10, 2005, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the USAID Warehouse: 2345 Aurora Blvd. (formerly Tramo St.), Pasay City (Warehouse is located between EDSA and Airport road with a big gray gate beside PITC.). Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refund will be done starting May 12, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/ Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 851-4229, 851-4234/35 and 514-4236.

(PDI–April 30, May 1, 7 & 8, 2005)

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
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A man's crusade against smoking

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

TO THE CASUAL onlooker, Soter Aytin looks like any other tireless individual who spends a lot of his time tending to his small auto shop near his home in Las Piñas.

But once you start a conversation with this 64-year-old former bank employee, you would readily notice his labored breathing, accompanied by occasional wheezing and gasps for breath.

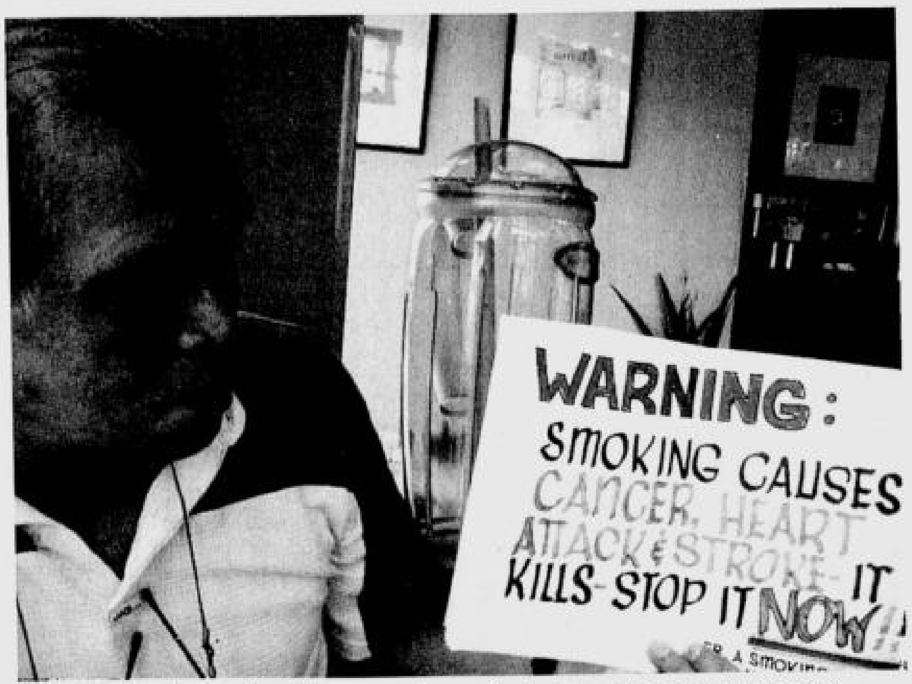
"I may have this shortness of breath—and my voice is a little hoarse from a laryngitis I just got—but I feel much, much better now," he says.

Just over a year ago, Aytin faced the possibility of death.

"Since I was diagnosed in October of 2002 with a malignant tumor, I have been through a lot: dealing with the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation therapy. In the course of my therapy, I even developed respiratory infection, which confined me to a wheelchair for months," says Aytin.

Despite the extreme physical weakness, Aytin was told by his oncologist that he was showing signs of recovery.

"Indeed, I slowly got better. My lungs' X-rays improved and have remained clear ever since. Honestly, I can't believe that it has already been over a year," says a thankful Aytin who is now on a personal crusade to encourage prevention efforts and research into the treatment of lung cancer.


WARNING:
SMOKING CAUSES CANCER, HEART ATTACK & STROKE - IT KILLS - STOP IT NOW!!

SOTER Aytin, who developed lung cancer, has embarked on a personal crusade against smoking, even if others see his campaign a hopeless cause.

Consequences of smoking

For the first time since his treatment ended, Aytin started thinking of himself as a survivor.

"I know it takes several more years to be completely 'clean' of cancer, but I personally feel it left me a long time ago," says Aytin, who now goes to malls in Alabang to distribute personally prepared fliers that tell of the health consequences of smoking, the leading cause of lung cancer.

He explains: "As a former smoker myself—I started when I was just 14—I have a special interest in the topic. I was well and truly addicted then and it was really hard to quit."

One of the most widely known harmful effects of tobacco on human health is its role in increasing a person's risk of lung cancer, according to Dr. Gerardo Cornelio of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital.

"Lung cancer remains the world's most diagnosed disease, with 1.35 million cases [detected] annually. It accounts for about 12 percent of all new cancer cases and 1.2 million [cancer] deaths [each year]," he says, citing a recent World Health Organization survey.

More smokers

Still, the number of smokers around the world continues to increase.

A study published last year by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said the number of smokers was expected to grow from 1.1 billion in 1998 to around 1.3 billion in 2010.

The same report added that by 2010, the share of developed countries in world tobacco consumption is projected to be only 29 percent (from 34 percent in 1998) while the share of developing countries will be 71 percent.

Hopeless cause?

As for Aytin, he quit smoking after he went to see his doctor who took several exams—X-ray, CT (computerized tomography) scan, lung biopsy and broncoscopy. The results came back with the same finding: lung cancer.

"I was so terrified then. Indeed, accepting the fact that I have cancer and the challenges I will be facing made me quit smoking right then and there," he recalls.

After recovering from his treatment, he promised to start a personal crusade to convince others to stop smoking.

Aytin says: "I don't care if others see my campaign a hopeless cause. If we are going to be serious about improving health and preventing disease we must continue to reduce tobacco use, and we must prevent our youth from taking up this dangerous habit."

Search for 'silver bullet' continues

By Charles E. Buban

LUNG cancer is one of the "most stubborn malignancies that yield little to modern treatments," according to Dr. Gerardo Cornelio of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital.

Thus, he says, the search for the "silver bullet" that could defeat it continues.

The disease is more treatable if detected at an early stage, but there is a lack of a reliable screening test to detect it before symptoms develop.

According to the World Health Organization, even in developed countries, only 25 percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer live an additional five years. In the developing world, the survival rate is only 8.9 percent.

New drug

This was why doctors in Asia were keenly looking at a new anticancer drug that inhibits an enzyme (tyrosine kinase) present in cells that is important in the growth of cancer cells.

The drug, known as gefitinib (manufactured by AstraZeneca and marketed here as Iressa), was recently proven to be relatively effective in treating Asian patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the most common form of lung cancer.

Although a clinical trial showed that the drug did not significantly prolong survival in the overall population studied, it showed a statistically significant increase in the average survival for patients of Asian ethnic origin.

The analysis among patients who had never smoked also showed a statistically significant survival advantage.

In 342 patients of Asian ethnic origin, there was an increase in the average survival of four months. The average survival in patients on gefitinib therapy was 9.5 months versus 5.5 months for patients receiving placebo, says Cornelio, who headed the Philippine phase of the Iressa Survival Evaluation in Lung cancer (Isel) study.

Multinational study

In the subgroup of 375 patients who never smoked, there was a statistically significant increase in survival: the average survival in patients on gefitinib therapy was 8.9 months versus 6.1 months for patients on placebo.

The Asian patients enrolled in the Isel study included those from Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

"The Isel study confirmed earlier studies that showed the drug's ability to significantly shrink tumors in 10 percent of lung cancer patients, many of whom have a mutation in an enzyme targeted by the drug. This mutation is most common in women, Asians, and in those with adenocarcinomas," says Cornelio.

The angry (quarter or so) inch

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

ATTENTION, women: the next time you spot a cute guy sitting at a table next to you and you start checking his hands to see if he's single—without him noticing of course—you may also want to visually measure the ratio of his index finger length to his ring finger length. If the ring finger is longer than the index finger, there's a chance that he has a tendency to be physically aggressive.

In the March issue of Biological Psychology, psychology graduate student Allison Bailey and her mentor, Peter Hurd, found a correlation between finger length ratio and physical aggression in males but not in females.

In general, women have index and ring fingers of about equal length, while men have slightly shorter index fingers than ring fingers, which is apparently considered a more "masculine" trait.

One study from McMaster University involving finger length and masculine tendencies suggested that women with index and ring fingers that weren't of equal length were more promiscuous and more likely to have casual sex.

Prenatal testosterone

Bailey and Hurd took a previous study's hypothesis that aggression was linked to prenatal testosterone levels, and sought to demonstrate that "testosterone organizes human aggressive behavior and that digit ratio will correlate with the most sexually dimorphic forms of trait aggression."

For their study, Bailey and Hurd looked at the handprints of nearly 300 introductory psychology college students from the University of Alberta in Canada.

Each student filled out a questionnaire asking them to score their behaviors in terms of verbal and physical aggression, hostility and anger. A separate section discussed self-deception and impression management and was scored to measure how accurately the students would represent themselves. In other words, if they could be angry or hostile or verbally aggressive, would they admit it or instead give researchers a socially acceptable answer?

To prevent any skewing of the data, the researchers discarded the answers from students with high deception scores.

The students then had their handprints scanned, and the lengths of their fingers calculated. Prior to scanning each volunteer's handprints, the researchers marked the creases of the ring and index fingers on each hand so they could distinguish where the palm ended and the finger began for more accurate measurements.

A computer program was used to measure the length of each finger and the ratio of the index finger length to the ring finger on the same hand was calculated. The finger ratios were then compared against the questionnaire results.

Right hand only

Bailey and Hurd only used the data collected on finger length ratios involving only the students' right hands, partially because the relationship between finger length and aggression was more clearly defined when compared with the data from the left hand. Also, previous studies only used the right hand in their research.

In a press release from the University of Alberta, Hurd admitted that he thought the hypotheses would be easily disproved until he saw the findings.

They found that the male and female students had similar scores in the categories of verbal aggression, anger and hostility, indicating that these behaviors were less sexually dimorphic than physical aggression, where the males scored higher than the women.

The researchers did note that the menstrual cycle and birth control medications may have affected the females' scores. This idea, they said, bears further investigation.

"Finger lengths explain about 5 percent of the variation in these personality measures, so research like this won't allow you to draw conclusions about specific people," Hurd said in the press release.

"But finger length can tell you a little bit about where personality comes from, and that's what we're continuing to explore."

Hurd's lab is currently working on a paper related to this study involving hockey players, their finger length ratios and their levels of aggression, which should make interesting reading when it comes out.

In the meantime, ladies, go back to checking out the cute guy's hands, and know when you do that you're getting a fairly good measure of the man.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Pregnant? Go ahead and swim

By Rebecca B. Singson, MD
Contributor

IT IS possible to enjoy the summer and some of the fun activities with friends and family if you know what your limits are as a pregnant woman.

Can a pregnant woman go swimming?

Yes, certainly. Swimming is one of the best exercises for a pregnant woman. It mobilizes many different muscles, yet there is little strain for the woman since the water supports and partially unburdens her of the weight of her growing tummy.

However, diving or jumping into the water are best avoided, especially in the third trimester of pregnancy.

Swimming pools use chlorine to kill harmful bacteria that may accumulate in the water. But chlorine can also kill the bacteria in the vulvar area, upsetting the bacterial flora, thus promoting fungal infections. So if you get a vaginal itch a few days to a few weeks after swimming, you know what caused it and what it might possibly be.

Sunblock

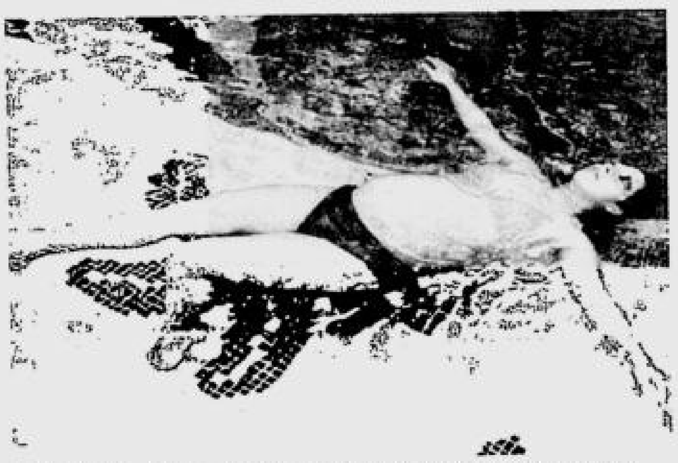
When swimming in the beach, avoid jellyfish stings by using anti-jellyfish lotion. Also, remember to be generous with sunblock to prevent free radical formation on the skin that can induce skin cancer . (The higher the number, the longer the protection. Look for SPF60.) Wear sunglasses to avoid free radical formation in the eyes that can cause cataracts in the future.

Prevent dehydration and overheating by taking lots of fluids (coconut juice is great for replenishing electrolytes; it's much better than plain water).

Avoid water sports that create internal body pressure changes, such as scuba diving. Water skiing and beach volleyball are best avoided. You may jet-ski if it is something you have been doing prior to pregnancy, but not if you are learning it for the first time.

Other sports

A rule of thumb when it comes to activities and pregnancy is that you can usually engage in it if it was something you have been accustomed to doing prior to pregnancy.



TESSA Prieto-Valdes shows how even pregnant women can safely enjoy swimming.
MANDY NAVASERO

However, activities where you run the risk of falling are best avoided because the impact may cause the placenta to separate from the uterus, a condition known as placental abruption. This very serious condition will cut off the oxygen supply of the baby, causing fetal death or a dangerous loss of blood from the mother. Therefore, rock climbing, skydiving and horseback riding are definitely to be avoided.

Tennis is generally safe during pregnancy, but a woman should be aware that her sense of balance may change.

Golf, bowling

Golf and bowling are good recreational sport but don't consistently pump up cardiovascular function so they don't really strengthen the heart and lungs.

A woman must remember that during pregnancy, the hormone relaxin causes the joints to loosen. And with a growing abdomen, a woman's axis of gravity changes such that she will need to lean back to adjust her balance.

Body-building and strength training can make muscles stronger as well as help prevent muscle aches and pains that are commonly experienced in pregnancy. This is best done with a professional trainer to avoid muscle and joint injuries.

Pointers

- Vigorous exercise can raise a woman's temperature to more than 1½ to 2 degrees Fahrenheit. This can be dangerous since blood is shunted from the uterus to the skin to regulate temperature back to normal.
- Don't swim in hot springs or hot tubs. Avoid saunas and steam rooms.
- Wear stretchable or loose clothing. Natural fabrics like cotton let the body breathe, compared to polyester fabrics that don't absorb sweat.
- Use anti-slip footwear especially in wet areas. Use well-fitting, well-cushioned sneakers that will protect the loosened joints and ligaments of the body to minimize injuries.

5. Never train to the point of exhaustion. Once body sugar runs low, the body will break down fat for energy supply. The byproduct of this fat metabolism is ketone formation, which can cross the placenta and is not safe for the fetus.

6. Pain, cramping, dizziness, nausea and headache are signals that should never be ignored and should be taken as signs that it is time to stop and rest.

7. Gradually reduce the level of exercise in the third trimester. Walking is the best exercise at this stage of pregnancy.

(Dr. Singson is a Fellow of the Obstetrics and Gynecologic Society and the Philippine Society of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy.)

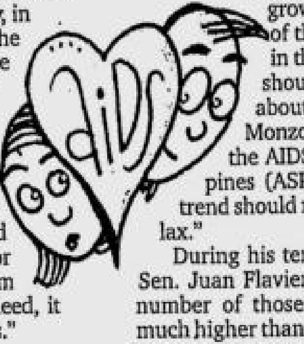
Yes, AIDS does matter!

By Henrylito D. Tacio
Contributor

IN LOVE, age doesn't matter. But when it comes to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), it does!

"The most important [issue] is this one, to this planet, to this time and place is AIDS," Hollywood movie actor Richard Gere pointed out during the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

"By any and every measure, AIDS is a plague of Biblical proportion," wrote Dr. Sandra Thurman, director of the US Office of National AIDS Policy, in a paper circulated during the 7th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Melbourne, Australia.



"There is no part of society in the hardest hit areas that is not in some way touched by the epidemic," said Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). "Indeed, it has become a full-fledged crisis."

PWA estimates

The latest estimates indicate that between 34 million and 46 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS. Every day, the number of those infected is growing. This is particularly true in Asia, the world's populated region.

"Every day in Asia, 1,192 people die of AIDS-related diseases," said a Time report.

"The epidemic in Asia threatens to become the largest in the world," deplored Dr. Piot. "With more than half the world's population, the region must treat AIDS as an issue of regional urgency. The question is no longer whether Asia will have a major epidemic, but rather how massive it will be."

"Neither numbers nor statistics are adequate to describe the human destruction being caused by AIDS," said Madeleine K. Albright when she was still the US secretary of state.

In the Philippines, as of February 2004, some 2,231 cases of HIV infections have been recorded by the National Epidemiology Center of the Department of Health (DOH). The figure is cumulative from 1984, the year when the first AIDS case was reported in the country.

No reason to relax

"Low and slow" is how health experts describe the prevalence and growth rate, respectively, of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Philippines. "But we should not be complacent about it," warned Dr. Ofelia Monzon, former president of the AIDS Society of the Philippines (ASP). "The low and slow trend should not give us reason to relax."

During his term as health secretary, Sen. Juan Flavier averred that the real number of those afflicted with HIV is much higher than what the reports show. For every one case being reported, he said, 100 others are not reported.

Jean-Marc Olive, World Health Organization (WHO) representative in the Philippines, puts the number of HIV infections in the country "anywhere between 6,000 and 10,000."

"We in the Philippines are sitting on the tip of an iceberg and we don't know how big the base is," admitted Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit. "[The HIV/AIDS problem] is hidden and growing," said Dr. Roderick Poblete of the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC).

"The Philippines sits on HIV time bomb," wrote book author Ted Lerner in an article which appeared in Asia Times.

Anticondom approach

"The Philippines is courting an AIDS epidemic with its anticondom approach," said Jonathan Cohen, a researcher with Human Rights Watch's HIV/AIDS program. "The casualties will be millions of people who cannot protect themselves from HIV infection."

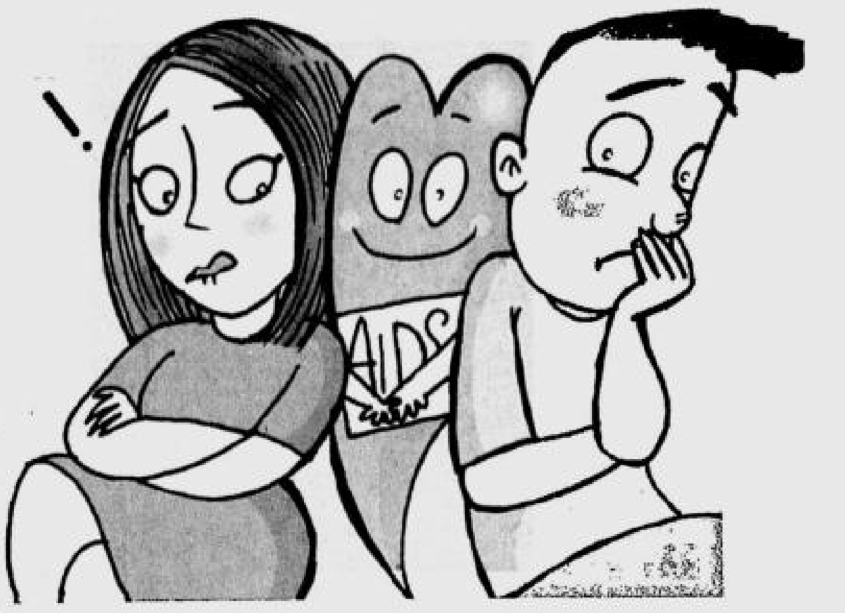
In 1993, then Manila Archbishop Jaime Sin considered those who promote the use of condom as evil. "Do not be deceived by those who say that sexually transmitted diseases can be stopped by external devices and gadgets," he said in a message. "Man-made devices are bound to fail. Only a small number of failures is required for the AIDS virus to spread rapidly."

Although Thai Sen. Mechai Viravaidya frowns on promiscuity, he insists a condom is a girl's best friend. "In the past, condom is being promoted as a birth control method," said the lawmaker, who distributes condoms in every place he visits. "Today, condoms must be seen as death control [against HIV/AIDS]."

AIDS is not a single disease in itself. Rather, a severely impaired immune system leaves the AIDS sufferer highly susceptible to a whole host of infections and diseases. AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), thought to have jumped to humans from chimpanzees and was first identified by Dr. Luc Montagnier and his colleagues at the Pasteur Institute in France in 1983.

HIV is transmitted in blood, semen, preejaculate vaginal fluids via unprotected sexual contact or shared injecting equipment. "Once inside the body, there is no way a person can eliminate the virus," points out Dr. Dominic Garcia, an infectious disease specialist at the Gat Andres Medical Hospital.

Sexual intercourse—whether vaginal, anal or oral—is "the leading mode of HIV transmission in the Philippines," says PNAC's Austere Panadero.



Leading mode of transmission

Medical experts say HIV is primarily a blood-borne virus, with a very limited ability to live outside the body. It is communicable, but not contagious like airborne virus (example: flu). It cannot be transmitted by hugging, shaking hands, coughing, sneezing, or by sharing glasses, cups or utensils.

Despite the educational campaigns made by both government and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), most Filipinos are still unaware of what HIV/AIDS is. "Education through the media in whatever form is still the only potent vaccine available in the fight against the dreaded disease," explained former President Fidel V. Ramos during the launch of the FVR Excellence Award on HIV/AIDS for Media.

During his term, Ramos signed Republic Act 8504, or the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998, which outlaws compulsory AIDS testing as a precondition to employment, admission to educational institutions, place of abode, entry or exit from the Philippines, and access to health care, credit, insurance, and burial services. It also acknowledges the promotion of condoms to limit the risk of transmission.

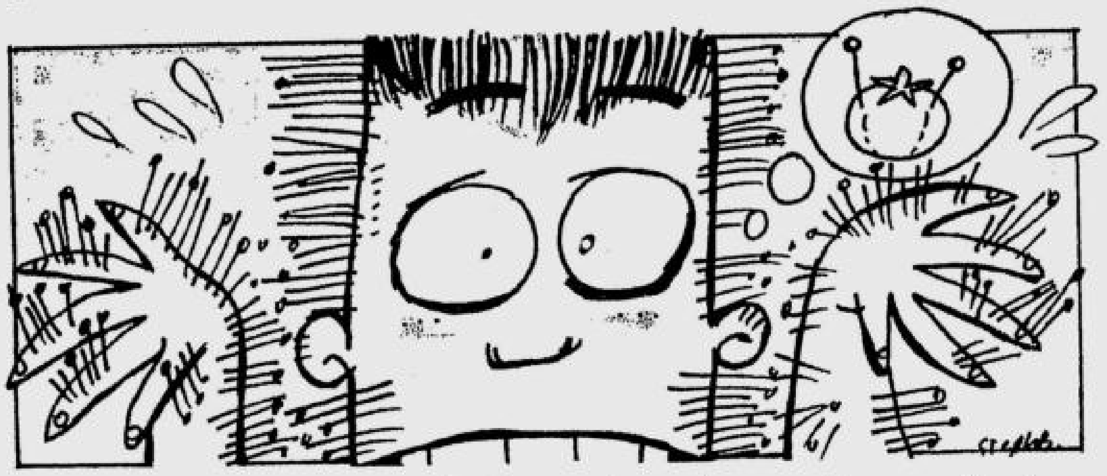
Start taking responsibility

In support to Mr. Ramos, Dr. Dayrit added that even in schools, HIV/AIDS must be taught. "HIV/AIDS needs to be brought out into the open," he said.

"Young people need to be told that they are not invincible and we have to start telling people that they should start taking responsibility for their own sexual behavior."

Results of the Young Adult Fertility Survey of the University of the Philippines Population Institute showed that at least 23 percent of Filipino youths (aged between 15 and 24) think they're "invincible" against HIV/AIDS.

"If we wage this holy war [against HIV/AIDS] together—we will win," said South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Concerns on traditional oriental medicine

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

WE VISITED a big clinic practicing oriental or traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) located about 60 kilometers outside Beijing and three kilometers away from the Juyong junction of the famous Great Wall. A young lady assistant gave us a background of the clinic, showing pictures of patients who testified how their illnesses had been cured by TCM when Western doctors had already given up on them.

Beside the clinic is a two-story building where foreigners can stay during the series of TCM treatments they have to undergo.

The assistant also showed us a picture of Caucasian doctors who completed their preceptorship in the TCM facility. After the tour, we were asked to wait in what looked like a classroom with pictures of the human body and the various nerve meridians posted on the board. After about 10 minutes, a respectable-looking 70-something Chinese "professor," garbed in immaculate white medical gown, entered the room followed by an interpreter.

I introduced myself as a patient and I was told through the interpreter that I didn't have to tell him my medical complaints. He would know my complete health status by just feeling my pulse.

Medical history-taking

I have been practicing medicine for 28 years and it still takes me at least 15 minutes on the patient's first visit to try to find out the source of his or her symptom(s), which we call chief complaint. It helps a lot if the patient can give me as much information as he or she can. I perform a physical examination using my stethoscope and some other gadgets. Laboratory exams may be necessary in some cases to complete the evaluation.

The "professor" made medical history-taking seem obsolete. After only 10 seconds of feeling my pulse, he confidently gave his verdict: my skeletal system was weakening and my kidneys were malfunctioning.

He wrote a prescription, in Chinese characters, for two types of medicines and the assistant told me to buy them from their pharmacy. He said each medicine had to be taken as 15 tablets morning and evening, which meant I had to take 60 pills a day. A one-month supply would cost 950 yuan, or close to P 7,000. It certainly didn't support my impression that Chinese medicine was cheap.

I didn't buy the medicines anymore; it would have been absurd to do so just to satisfy my curiosity of finding out firsthand what TCM is all about. I just said that I needed to clear with my physician if it was all right for me to take the Chinese medicines. The "professor" left hurriedly with his assistant, probably pissed off with my noncompliance with his expert advice. He proceeded to the next room where another patient was waiting.

Unfounded beliefs

TCM encompasses a wide array of folk medical practices based on unfounded beliefs. Some even label it as mysticism. Treating anything from migraine to peptic ulcer, it proposes that the body's vital energy (chi or qi) circulates through channels, called meridians, that have branches connected to bodily organs and functions. Illness is attributed to imbalance or interruption of chi. Ancient practices such as acupuncture and the use of various herbs are believed to restore balance.

Some acupuncturists claim that the electrical properties of the body may become imbalanced weeks or even months before symptoms occur. Hence, they recommend that acupuncture be used to treat conditions when the patient just "doesn't feel right," even though no disease is apparent.

However, up to now, there is no clear scientific evidence supporting any of the TCM modality of treatment. The only evidence published are subjective and obviously biased testimonials by practitioners and their patients. Authors of well-designed studies evaluating TCM conclude that claims on the effectiveness of TCM as a therapy for medical problems are not supported by sound clinical research.

Acupuncture is also not without risk. Improperly performed acupuncture can cause bleeding from a punctured blood vessel, pneumothorax (punctured lung), convulsions, local infections, hepatitis B (from unsterile needles) and nerve damage. The herbs used by acupuncture practitioners are not regulated for safety or potency. Because of their haphazard evaluation, serious medical problems may be left undetected and untreated.

The mathematics of party lists

(Second of three parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST week my Ateneo de Manila Mathematics Department colleague, Dr. Felix P. Muga II [fmuga@ateneo.edu], outlined three indices that can be used to analyze the six bills proposed as amendments to Republic Act 7941, the Party-List System Act. Let us proceed to look at each bill mathematically:

1. House Bill 341, authored by Rep. Imee Marcos, proposes to entitle each voter 13 votes for the party-list election, one vote for a candidate in the national or regional political party and one vote for a candidate for each of the 12 sectors.

However, the bill does not provide a mechanism to allocate the total seats available for the party-list system. Because of the absence of a clear mechanism for the allocation of seats, we cannot analyze the Marcos proposal based on the three parameters that we presented.

2. House Bill 409, introduced by Rep. Roseller Barinaga, provides a two percent formal vote threshold, a minimum share of the vote to qualify for a seat, and a 10-seat cap for a winning party-list. The seats are allocated mainly in two rounds. The number of seats that are distributed to a given party in the first round is equal to the integer portion of the quantity calculated in the following formula: Total No. of Available Seats × Party's Share of the Total Votes of all Qualified Voters.

The second round distributes the remaining number of seats using the decimal fractions of the quotient obtained above, arranged from highest to lowest. The parties with the largest decimal fractions win one seat each until the remaining seats are allocated. The allocation based on the Barinaga proposal gives a perfect (100 percent) index of representation, a very high (96.327 percent) index of proportionality, but a 0 percent index of elasticity.

Three rounds

3. House Bill 2451, introduced by Representatives Edgar Valdez, Ernesto Pablo and Sunny Madamba, provides for seat allocation similar to the first two rounds of House Bill 3474 of Rep. Guillermo Cua.

HB 3474 has three rounds of seat allocation, adopts a three-seat cap (HB 2451 adopts a six-seat cap) and uses 1.8 percent as a formal vote threshold.

In the first round, all parties that qualify for a seat are guaranteed one each. In the second round, the remaining number of seats is distributed, wherein each party receives a number of seats equal to the integer portion of the product when the remaining number of seats is multiplied to the party's share of the total votes of all the qualified parties. If there are remaining seats after the second round, these are allocated in the third round, similar to the second round of the Barinaga proposal.

If there are no winning parties affected by the cap or limit on the number of seats that a party may win, the Valdez et al. proposal, the Cua proposal and the Barinaga proposal are equivalent if the following adjustments are made:

- The quantity below shall be added to the product in the second round of the Valdez et al. proposal or the Cua proposal, and the formula is No. of Guaranteed Seats × Party's Share of the Total Votes of all Qualified Parties - 1.
- The three proposals shall have the same cap on the number of seats.
- The three proposals shall have equal formal vote thresholds.
- In the Valdez et al. proposal a third round shall be added, similar to the second round of the Barinaga proposal.

Party-list reps' proposal

4. House Bill 2734, proposed by Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño, Joel Virador, Crispin Beltran, Rafael Mariano and Liza Maza, has two rounds in the allocation of party-list seats, a six-seat cap, a two-percent actual winning minimum percentage and no formal vote threshold.

In the first round of seat allocation, the number of seats a party may win is equal to the integer portion of the quotient when the party's share of votes is divided by two percent. The remaining number of seats is allocated in the second round to parties that received less than six seats, including parties that do not win a seat in the first round. The allocation in this round is similar to the second round of the Barinaga proposal.

The allocation based on the Ocampo et al. proposal results in a perfect (100 percent) index of representation, and 86.203 percent index of proportionality. There are 21 second-chance parties and 16 first round winning parties. Thus, the index of elasticity is 131.250 percent.

If there are no winning parties affected by the cap or limit on the number of seats that a party may win, the Ocampo et al. proposal and the Barinaga proposal are equivalent with the following adjustments:

- The Ocampo et al. proposal shall adopt the natural value of the winning minimum percentage.
- The two proposals shall have equal formal vote threshold.
- The two proposals shall have the same cap on the number of seats.

Kids who watch TV more likely to bully

CHICAGO—The more television 4-year-old children watch, the more likely they are to become bullies later on in school, a US study said.

At the same time, children whose parents read to them, take them on outings and just generally pay attention to them are less likely to become bullies, said the report from the University of Washington.

Bullying can now be added "to the list of potential negative consequences of excessive television viewing along with obesity, inattention and other types of aggression," said Frederick Zimmerman who led the research. *Reuters*

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Repair/Renovation of Library Hub Located at Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

1. The Department of Education (DepED), through the Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 ONLY (Php2,439,800.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair/Renovation of Library Hub Project Office, at Araneta corner Hernaez St., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The DepED now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the project. Bidders should possess a valid Philippines Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license applicable to the above type and cost of contract, have completed a similar contract with value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Application for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Bidding Documents shall be issued to prospective bidders who passed the eligibility check only. Completion of work required is sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.
3. Interested contractors shall submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) together with their application for eligibility to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), through the BAC Secretariat, Rm. 508, 5th Flr. Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than **May 16, 2005, 6:00 p.m.** Eligibility requirements shall be issued by DepED upon receipt of the LOI and application for eligibility.

   Prospective Bidders shall submit their eligibility documents to the above address not later than **May 17, 2005, 6:00 p.m.**

   DepED shall notify prospective bidders of the result of eligibility check.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders starting on **May 23 to 30, 2005** during office hours upon presentation of Notice of Eligibility to the address mentioned above, and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php2,500.00. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org.** The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. Nos. 636-6543 or Fax No. 636-6542.
5. The DepED will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible Bidders on **June 7, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at DepED Division Office of Bacolod, Rosario San Juan Street, Bacolod City.
6. Submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 21, 2005, 2:00 p.m.**, at the address specified in paragraph no. 5.
7. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least 75% interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check shall be opened.
8. The DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI-May 7 & 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City

DepED

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Dental Anesthetics, Disposable Dental Needles, Dental Forceps, Sodium Fluoride, and Auditory Penlights

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

PACKAGE	ITEM	BUDGET
1	Supply & Delivery of Dental Anesthetics	P 2,420,000.00
2	Supply & Delivery of Disposable Needles	P 385,000.00
3	Supply & Delivery of Dental Forceps	P 620,000.00
4	Supply & Delivery of Sodium Fluoride	P 450,000.00
5	Supply & Delivery of Auditory Penlights	P 400,000.00

The total Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is **PHILIPPINE PESOS FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND & 00/100 ONLY (PhP 4,275,000.00).** Bids received in excess of the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.

2. The DepED, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of GOODS to the DepED HNC, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on **May 2, 2005** until **May 10, 2005** upon submission of a letter of intent to the BAC Secretariat Office, 5th floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Philippine Pesos One Thousand & 00/100 only (Php 1,000.00).**
5. **The DepED, BAC** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **May 11, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.**
6. Bids must be received on or before **May 24, 2005**, 10:00 a.m. **at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.** Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. **The DepED, BAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 30 & May 7, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor, materials and equipment for the hereunder contract:

1. Name of Contract : CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER FENCE
   Location : Luzon Experiment Station, Floridablanca, Pampanga
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 5,227,847.00
   Contract Duration : Six (6) months PCAB License: Medium A
2. Name of Contract : REHABILITATION/RENOVATION OF STRUCTURES AND INSTALLATION OF FACILITIES OF MAIN BUILDING
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 4,497,089.00
   Contract Duration : Four (4) months PCAB License : Medium A
3. Name of Contract : REHABILITATION/RENOVATION OF STRUCTURES AND INSTALLATION OF FACILITIES OF ONE (1) UNIT BACHELOR'S COTTAGE AND ONE (1) UNIT GUEST ROOM
   Location : Luzon Experiment Station, Floridablanca, Pampanga
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Bachelor's Cottage – PhP 249,771.00
   Guest Room – Php 858,586.00
   Contract Duration : Three (3) months PCAB License : Small B
4. Name of Contract : CONSTRUCTION OF MOTORPOOL
   Location : Luzon Experiment Station, Floridablanca, Pampanga
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 2,413,978.00
   Contract Duration : Three (3) months PCAB License : Small B

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key Personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct a post-qualification evaluation of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of the Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities during office hours is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	May 10 - 13, 2004
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	May 17 - 20, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	May 18 - 27, 2005
4.	Notice of results of Eligibility Check	May 31, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 1, 2005
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	June 3, 2005
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	June 15, 2005

The time of the Pre-Bid Conference and the Receipt and Opening of Bids shall be at 9:00 A.M. on the specified dates and the corresponding venue shall be at the SRA Social Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the BAC SECRETARIAT, SRA Annex Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, upon their submission of LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00 to the SRA Treasury Division, Quezon City. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

For particulars, please contact – BAC SECRETARIAT
Tel. No. 929-6837

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to Bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the SRA Treasury Division.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – May 7 & 14, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-06A

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING : JUNE 14, 2005; 9:00 AM

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1 1006 PCS	PORCELAIN INSULATORS, 69 KV	3D3005-026	P 2,200,000.00
A2 1500 PCS	PORCELAIN INSULATORS, 230 KV	3D3005-027	2,000,000.00

NOTE A Pre-Bidding Conference for the above schedules shall be held on June 01, 2005; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Binan, Laguna, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule starting May 10, 2005. No bid documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids shall be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Binan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph.

(Sgd.) R.B. VERGARA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI- May 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION COMMISSION
Quezon City

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) filed an application for the renewal and conversion of its provisional franchise pursuant to NEC Resolution No. 4 dated December 29, 1976 to permanent franchise to operate an electric light and power system in the municipality of Lope de Vega, province of Northern Samar under NEC Case No. 2005-02.

Hearing of this case by the Commission will be held at the Session Hall of the municipality of Lope de Vega, on May 18, 2005, Wednesday at 10:00 in the morning.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition with the commission at least five (5) days before the date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any person affected to file his or her opposition on time and appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his or her rights to be heard.

By the Authority of the Commission

(Sgd.) **ATTY. GOLDELIO G. RIVERA, CPA**
Director, Management Assistance Group
and NEC Office/Hearing Officer

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOHN JOSEPH M. MAGTULOY, CPA**
Deputy Administrator for Legal Services

(PDI–May 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Wilfreda & Myrna Albarracin	Talakag, Bukidnon	Agustin V. Albarracin SS#08-0099422-2	November 21, 2004
2)	Angelita del Rosario Diagan	Unknown	Domingo P. Diagan SS#02-0286052-7	December 18, 2004
3)	Patricia Domingo	Unknown	Alberto Domingo SS#03-0392352-5	October 21, 2003
4)	Evelyn del Prado Lucky Charm & Mary Goldelua	B56 L14 Metro Gate, San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Francisco Roque, Jr. SS#03-121-2826-9	October 18, 2004
5)	Joemy Vila	Unknown	Celestina Galasinao SS#03-2084838-2	January 20, 2005
6)	Salvie Gonzales	Anda, Pangasinan	Anselmo Gonzales SS#01-0421953-5	July 2, 2003
7)	Jocelyn Luna	A. Luna St., Project 4, Q.C.	Emil Luna, Jr. SS#08-0314557-3	September 4, 2004
	Esmeralda A. Luna	307 A Luna Street, Mandaluyong City		
8)	Mary Ann Pedragoza	Unknown	Antonio S. Magsombol SS#03-5426200-2	January 30, 2005
9)	Elren C. Bamba	Unknown	Conrado Fajardo Marasigan SS#03-3993569-7	February 16, 2004
10)	Asuncion Piamonte	Brgy. Panikihan, Gumaca, Quezon	Romulo Piamonte SS#03-6456819-4	February 20, 2004
11)	Clarita Taverara	Unknown	Gerardo R. Prades SS#03-3839255-8	May 6, 1986
12)	Norma Remavio Sapungan	#85 Interior Sauro Rd., Novaliches, QC	Rogelio Ranario SS#03-5329066-4	June 20, 2004
13)	Norma Rojas	Virac, Catanduanes	Nilo V. Rojas SS#05-0081846-2	January 7, 2002
14)	Jose Santos	2534 E. Tindalo St., Tondo, Manila	Roel Santos SS#03-8003714-6	November 1, 2004
15)	Oldarica Abu-Abo	19 Mangat Champoy, Proj. 7, Quezon City	Wilfredo Solomon SS#03-1651925-6	June 24, 2004
16)	Loranza Soriano	Baritao, Manaoag, Pangasinan 2430	Servillano T. Soriano SS#10-0050519-3	July 2, 2004
17)	Editha Macavili Tadeo Maria Perpetua Tadeo	399 D. Navarro, Tondo, Manila	Ernesto P. Tadeo SS#03-1227090-0	December 15, 2003

— Nothing Follows —

(PDI – May 7, 2005)

Philippine Daily Inquirer
MESSAGEBOARD

Mother's Day Treat

Warm your mom's heart with your deeply felt love note telling her how special she is to you. On May 8, Mother's Day, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS**, the widest reaching classifieds, will highlight a "Mother's Day special section" for personal ads dedicated to the first woman in all our lives.

For loving us with your life, no one else compares to you!
Happy Mama's Day!
Love,
Papa and Jing

1 col X 5 cm = **P 500**

Mom Junie,
You're the best!

JM & Hamma

1 col X 2 cm = **P 100**

Mama Karen,

Thanks for all you do.

Micro, Nicole, Gabby AJ & Christian

1col X 3 cm = **P 200**

Nanay Nene,

Happy Mother's Day
&
Happy 75th Birthday!
We love you!
Lolo Pete, kids and apos

2col X 8 cm = **P 1,500**

Mommy Tess,

If there was a day for everything you have given me as a mother, it would be Mother's day everyday.
I love you very much!

Bink

2 col X 5 cm = **P 1,000**

Mommy Myrla,
Thank you for always being there.
Happy Mother's Day!
We Love You!
Pidek, Poy, Soy, Issa & Kiko

2col X 3 cm = **P 500**

Take advantage of this offer and this will surely be one of the **BEST** gifts your mom will ever receive and cherish. For more info, you may visit or call any Inquirer branch.

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℻ 8978425
e-mail:
nabad@inquirer.com.ph

BUKIDNON FORESTS INCORPORATED
(A Subsidiary of the National Resources Development Corporation)
Assisted by the New Zealand Government
BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

ITB NO. 010

Bukidnon Forests Incorporated (BFI) invites interested contractors to apply for Eligibility and to re-bid if subsequently found eligible, to bid for various projects:

NAME OF PROJECT	HAVESTING OPERATIONS - YARDING & SKIDDING, LOADING, SEGREGATION AND FILING OF BENGUET PINE LOGS
LOCATION/END USER	BFI HARVESTING OPERATIONS Tigbawan, Incalbog, Can-ayan, Malaybalay City
SOURCE OF FUND	BFI REVENUES
APPROVED BUDGET COST	P5,055,000.00
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Contract of Services - Logging Equipment
SCOPE OF WORK	10,000 cu.m. Yarding & Skidding - ABC P1,800,000.00 21,000 cu.m. Loading ABC P2,100,000.00 21,000 cu.m. Segregation & Filing - ABC P1,155,000.00

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT	OWNED	LEASED	TOTAL
Loader	3	2	5
Wrecker	3	2	5

Issuance of Eligibility & Bid Document ... May 26, 2005
Dropping of Bids .. ...June 08, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.
Opening of Bids ... ...June 08, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.
BFI Training Center, BFI Cmpd., Sumpong, Malaybalay City

Qualified bidder/suppliers may obtain bid documents from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 per set. For more information, please inquirer at the BFI Office, Sumpong, Malaybalay City.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Documents, Procedures and Purchase Order shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 providing rules and regulation governing goods and infrastructure projects.

The BFI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to BFI.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. RAMIREZ
Research & Support Services Manager
BAC Chairman

(PDI- May 7 & 14, 2005)

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
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845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"Whoever
serves
Me
must
follow
Me;
and
where
I am,
My
servant
also will
be."
JOHN 12:16

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall live in the house of the Lord forever." **PSALM 23:6**

Dionisio C. Tan

Peacefully joined the Lord on May 5, 2005 at the age of 68.

His beloved wife, **Rustica**; children and in-laws, **Bernadette, Maria** (†) & **Ron, Ciela & Jun, Cecille & Donald, Daniel, Cristy & Michael,** and **Patrick;** grandchildren **Bullit, Nicole, Tep-Tep, Kieffer, Justine, Alicia, Carl, Sabrina;** siblings **Pete, Higinio, Mamemg** and **Robert** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

There will be daily masses at 3:00pm and 7:00pm.

Cremation will be on May 10, 2005, 8:00am at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

FELIPA MACALINTAL y ADAJAR

"Inay po" or "Ka Epay"

Ulirang Ina Awardee 2004

March 15, 1918 – May 4, 2005

*Has peacefully joined her Creator and her husband ("**Ka Borio**") on May 4, 2005 at the age of 87.*

Her body lies in state at her residence in Poblacion West, Alitagtag, Batangas.

Her bereaved children **Atty. Pol & Dolly** (†), **Drs. Connie & Rod** (†) **Azores, Ex-mayor Rudy & Beth, Romy & Yoly, Eddie & Caring, Drs. Regie & Manny Canlas, Elmo & Emily, Abet & Mimi, Dr. Fe & Mel Vergara, Guis & Gigie, Drs. Jun & Mercy, Mac & Cheche;** her grandchildren & their spouses & great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

In lieu of flowers, donations to her civic and community projects are most appreciated.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 10, 2005 at the cemetery of Alitagtag Batangas after the morning Mass.

DOMINADOR A. INOCENTES

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 6, 2005 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Senen**; children **Antonio** and **Carmen, Fem** and **Mario Paguio, Fe** and **Brian Borsook, Manding** and **Joji, Elvie** and **Alex Makalinao** and **Lourdes Inocentes;** grandchildren **Michael** and **Tara, Tish** and **Joe Hartman, Ana** and **Keith Brock, April, Chinie, Nicole, Alec, Bryan, Kathleen, Monique, Amanda, Benjamin, Heaven, Andrew** and **Aloy,** great grandchildren **Timmy, Matt, Ashleigh** and **Nikki** request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A-2 La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 10, 2005 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 12:00 noon Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

In lieu of flowers, may we request that donations be made to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Mandaluyong City on behalf of Dominador A. Inocentes.

God has you in His keeping; we have you in our hearts...

In Loving Memory

on the 15th Death Anniversary of

(Ret.) Major Hermito P. Herrera

of BF Homes Executive West & Pilar, Bataan

Holy Masses will be offered today, May 7, 2005, at the following:

1. **Our Lady of the Pillar** .... 5:45 a.m.
   Pilar, Bataan
2. **St. Joseph Cathedral** .... 6:30 a.m.
   Balanga City, Bataan
3. **Parish of the Resurrection** .... 5:00 p.m.
   BF Homes, Parañaque City
4. **Our Lady of the Pillar** .... 6:00 p.m.
   Las Piñas City
5. **Our Lady of the Rosary Parish** .... 6:00 p.m.
   Multinational Village, Parañaque City
6. **Jesus the Divine Healer Parish** .... 6:30 p.m.
   Tahanan Village, Parañaque City

His children, **Baby & Tony, Malou & Jessie, Rey & Cely, Gerry & Lot, Roland & Ditas,** brother, sisters, in-laws, grandchildren: **Margs, John, Carlo, Jesselle, Myka, Issa, Angelica, Julianna, Migs, Gabriel, Faye,** and **Renzo,** relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember **MITO** in their prayers.

Manuela "Milang" V. Velasco

*Peacefully joined her Creator, and her husband **Susano** (†) on May 5, 2005 at the age of 99.*

Her children **Manolito** and **Chita,** daughter-in-law **Mena;** grandchildren **Susan** and **Danny, Brenda** and **Charlie, Jeanne** and **Fourdie, Frays** and **Cathy;** her great-grandchildren **Janina, Joaquin** (†), **Pat, Po, Nikki, JD;** relatives and friends request the readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Daily Mirror corner Bulletin Sts., West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 8, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Card of Thanks

The family of the late

Atty. Lino Javier Inciong

wishes to thank all those who in one way or another condoled with them in their time of bereavement.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

ANGELA BANAAG SALVA

of Taal, Batangas and Zamora, Pasay City

*Has joined her husband, **Atty. Francisco "Paquito" G.H. Salva**, and now rests peacefully in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord God, on May 5, 2005 at the age of 90.*

Her loving children, JONATHAN (†) & CORAZON BERMUDEZ, JAMES & NIEVA DUQUE, WILHELMINA & EDMUNDO BERNARDO, FRANCIS & ALICIA MERCADO, MICHAEL & OPHELIA SANTOS, ERLINDA (†), & ELIZABETH & ALVIN AMAT, grandchildren & great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 8, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City immediately after the 3:00 pm Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
• LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
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Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City;
Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City;
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7264
• MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion,
Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
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SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
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Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
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Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
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Tel. 302-5447
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ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
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Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
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San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
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Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center,
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RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
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Tels. 642-6181 to 82
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Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42;
(TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

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Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
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Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266;
(0917) 895-0603
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FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
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Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417;
(046) 571-1978
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CHAPELS INC.
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Mandaue City, Cebu;
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Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
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#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur;
Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
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Fax (049) 531-4989
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Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
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Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
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• RIZAL
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CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0026; 650-7426;
Fax : 697-2764
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Guinang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal;
Tels. 649-5949, 942-4460
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Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave.,
Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal;
Tels. 645-1855
• ZAMBALES
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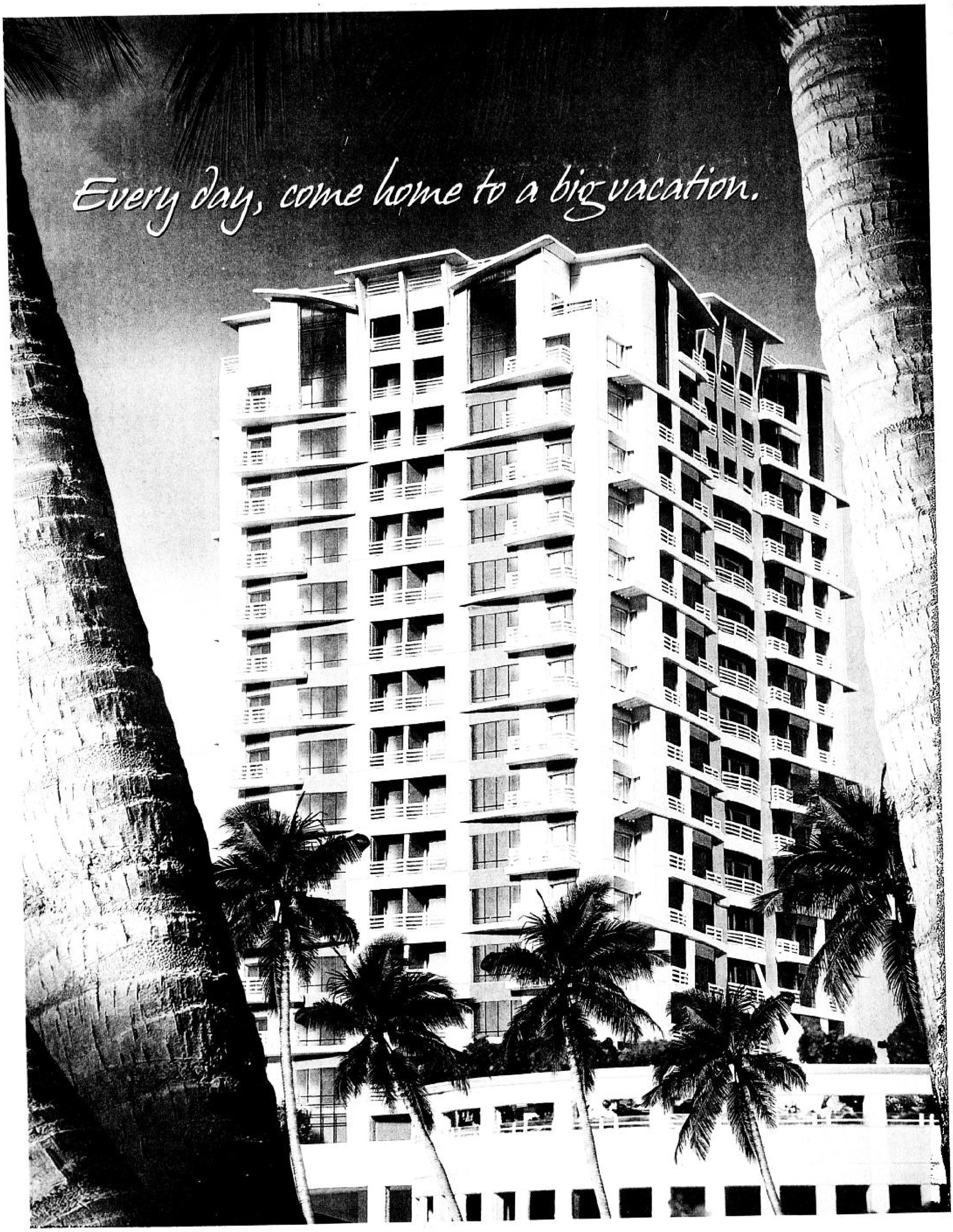
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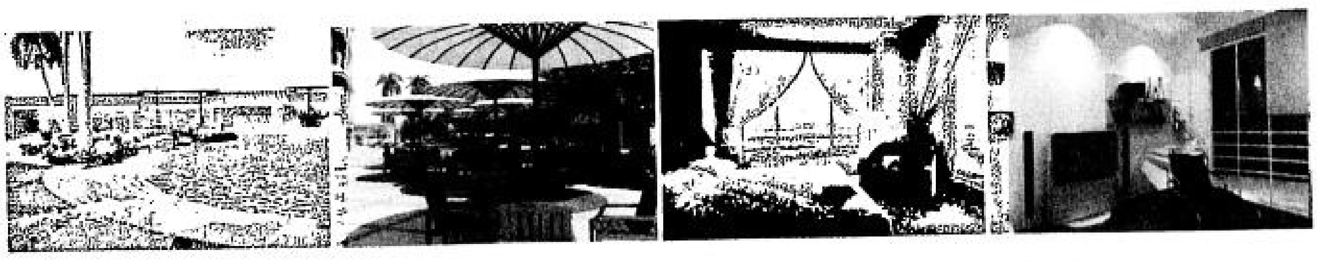

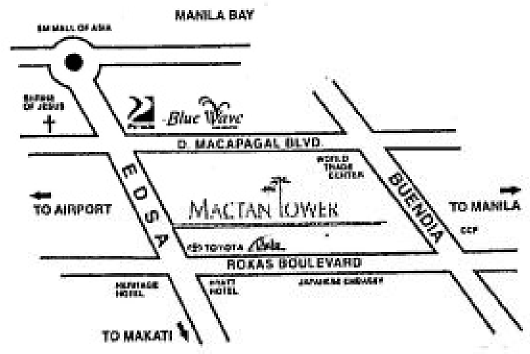
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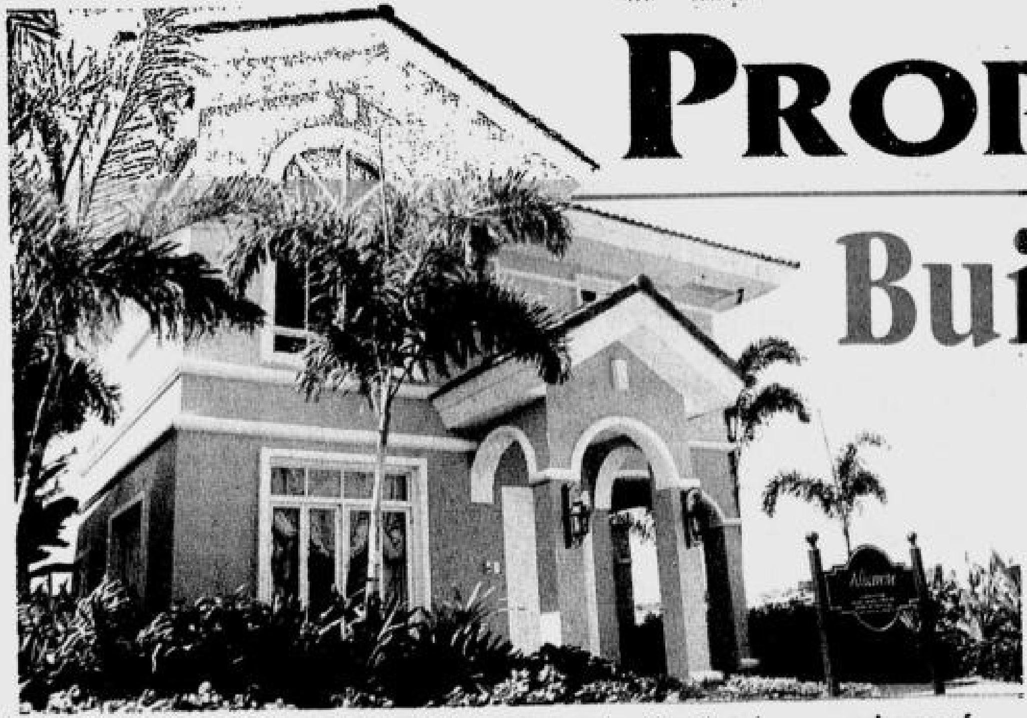


THE HOMES at the South Forbes Villas will be built closer to the sidewalks to increase one's sense of security and encourage interaction among neighbors.

Building the perfect city

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

MANY people dream of living in a traditional close-knit neighborhood; others dream of living close to their favorite golf course; and still others dream of a home with a great view of manicured grass, landscaped garden and forested hills.

"If anything is better than living at Cathay Land's South Forbes Golf City, it's golfing on the course that is at your backdoor," describes Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng.

The P5.25 billion development, situated on 250 hectares of land decked with trees and natural streams, is what Ng describes as the perfect site for the "satellite city" concept they will be introducing for the first time in the Philippines.

Warmly embraced

Ng explains that the concept has been warmly embraced in other Asian cities including Beijing, Jakarta, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur.

"A 'satellite city' concept refers to holistic and master-planned residential enclaves that are interconnected with bigger enclaves that host hospitals, schools, malls;

BUILDING/ B2-2

The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

Green architecture and the efficient use of water

(First of two parts)

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

ABOUT 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered with water. This gives many people the wrong impression that we have an abundant supply of water. In reality, only three percent is fresh, flowing through rivers, lakes and underground streams, while two percent of it is in polar ice.

Water is a precious and finite resource. Unfortunately, we continue to poison our limited water supply. Our water systems are polluted with industrial chemicals. Human wastes, in particular, remain the biggest pollution threat to water resources.

Human neglect accounts for a major reason for the pollution of groundwater, the main source of base floors for rivers, lakes and wetlands. Groundwater is part of the Earth's water cycle that flows underground. When there is little rainfall, groundwater continues to be a reliable source of water for drinking and irrigation.

Today, however, worldwide groundwater supplies are drying up at an alarming rate. As more people demand groundwater, the toxic wastes and the seepage of chemicals through the soil contaminate many of its sources.

Here, it is not unusual to see people—whether out of ignorance, neglect or indifference—pouring used vehicle oil directly into the street drainage system. Little do they know that this chemical will eventually find its way and contaminate the groundwater or aquifer.

In environment-conscious countries, they are very concerned about what is discharged into their drainage system. Some even provide a settling tank beside the garage to filter oil and other chemicals that are washed down when cleaning the cars.

Apart from pollution of our water supply, we have also been very wasteful in using water. In areas where water is scarce, such as cities and vacation resorts, water is frequently used excessively.

Helping save water

Green buildings are sustainable buildings. They are built to have minimal impact on the environment particularly with regard to the use of natural resources. In the case of water, green buildings use water efficiently by collecting, reusing and returning water back to the environment.

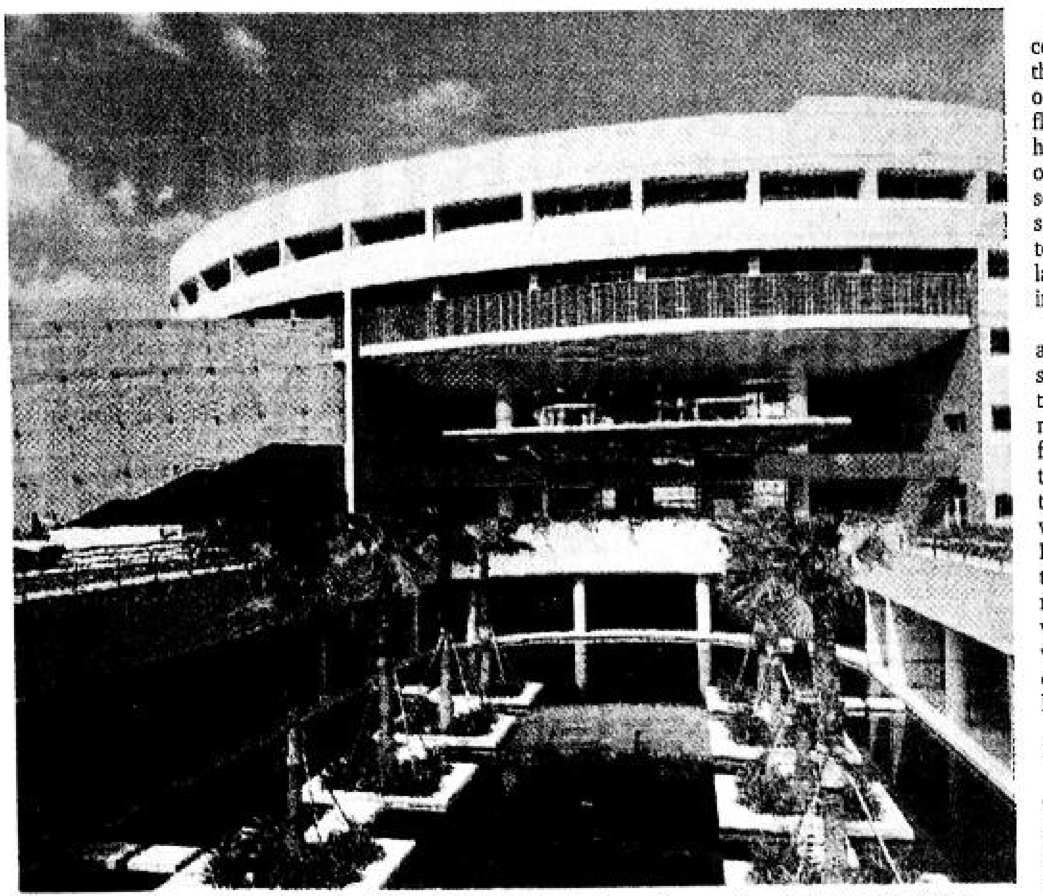
Green architecture may not provide all the answers to the worldwide water crisis, but it can offer many effective ways to help avert the crisis. How? By respecting some of the most basic laws of nature. For example, rainwater falling on the ground should be allowed to recharge aquifers and natural waterways without deteriorating their quality or quantity.

Aquifers

Aquifers are underground reservoirs. As water seeps through the ground, soil filters the contaminants before they can pollute the aquifer. This is why the water in aquifers is much cleaner than the water of reservoirs above the ground. Bacteria are practically nonexistent in aquifers.

Aquifers can be tapped for water when wells are dug until they reach the top layer of the aquifer. This layer is called the water table. The water table sinks lower when a considerable amount of water is pumped from an aquifer or during a dry spell.

Aquifers are refilled by water flowing into recharge areas (such as land with extensive trees and other vegetation). Swamps and water-drenched areas may absorb and collect water that eventually sinks into aquifers.



NANYANG Polytechnic, Singapore, last year's winner in the Asean Energy Awards, new and existing building category, features pools of water running through the courtyards collected from rainwater. The pools act as reservoirs for irrigating the plants and for reducing the "urban heat-island" effect which contributes to global warming.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD MAGAZINE

In urban areas, where parking lots and roads replace recharge areas and natural ponds, less water reaches the aquifer. Worse still, is that oil from these roads may be washed down with rain and poison the aquifer.

Green architecture addresses this problem by minimizing solid surfaces that may prevent rainwater from penetrating the ground and recharging the aquifer. As more and more urban areas grow, more concrete surfaces cover the ground like a gigantic blanket preventing moisture from reaching the landscape. What's more, these solid surfaces absorb heat during the day and slowly release it at night, contributing to global warming.

Instead of solid concrete or asphalt pavements, porous paving stones or gravel beds can be installed to allow rainwater to penetrate and recharge the aquifer. This will also help cool the surrounding area. Paving stones are precast cement blocks that are laid on a bed of sand to allow rain to seep through.

Green buildings are designed to use water efficiently and return it to the environment to enhance life. Several ways to do this are through conservation, collection, storage, treatment and the reuse of water resources.

Water conservation

Many people choose bathroom fixtures such as toilets or water closets and lavatories based simply on their color, finishes and shapes to blend with their interior design. Green architecture prioritizes their water efficiency before esthetic considerations.

Green buildings conserve water by installing water-efficient bathroom fixtures, faucet aerators, shower heads and appliances that cut down water use by as much as 30 percent or more.

For example, there are still countless buildings and homes in the Philippines that use old types of toilets with 3.5 gallons per flush (gpf) or 13 liters per flush. It has been proven that by replacing older toilets with new water-conserving toilets at 1.6 gpf, water savings can be dramatic. After all, toilets or water closets are the largest water–consuming fixtures in residences and offices.

Some of the six-liter toilet units are of the double-flush type. They save water by providing two options: flushing liquid wastes with minimal water and a complete flush for solid waste. These fixtures lessen the strain on sewage treatment plants. They help prevent rivers from being polluted. In turn, they protect the wildlife that is dependent on them. For many communities like ours, where many derive their drinking water from underground, water efficiency can help prolong the lifetime of aquifers.

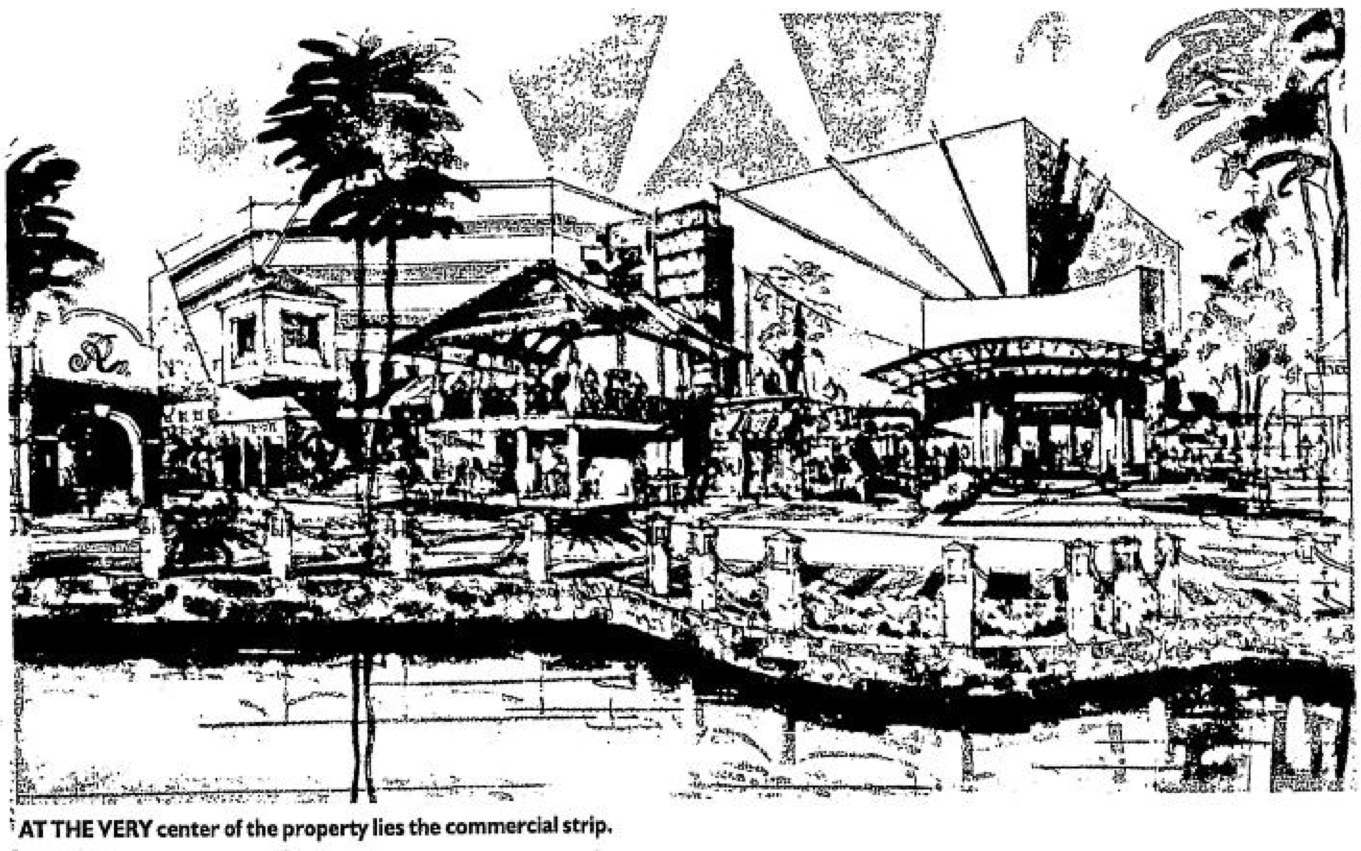
Rainwater harvesting system

Rainwater harvesting is an environment-friendly way to cut down on our dependence on potable water. The system is quite simple. It involves the use of roof and gutters of buildings and houses to collect rainwater into cisterns. Besides supplying water for washing and watering plants and even drinking, collecting rainwater also helps reduce soil erosion and flooding.

Rainwater can also be collected in wide-open spaces like catchment areas. They may look like ponds and marshes and water stored in these areas can then be used for the maintenance of the landscape.

(The second half of this article will include xeriscaping and techniques for water reuse.)

(The author is vice chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.)



AT THE VERY center of the property lies the commercial strip.

TOP interior designers Ivy and Cynthia Almario were given free rein on adorning the model units located at the site.

Building the perfect city

From page B2-1

office buildings, recreation centers and modern technological parks," describes Ng.

He adds that it will be designed in such a way that going from one place to another is smooth flowing, thus, giving its residents more time to enjoy the finer things in life.

Complete

"South Forbes Golf City is complete: it will have residential, commercial and industrial development components as well as sports, entertainment, leisure, dining and shopping amenities added," says Ng.

For Ng, South Forbes Golf City will open a lot of opportunities for major and small companies around the Sta. Rosa-Silang-Tagaytay where the development is located.

The development's main commercial avenue will give rise to office towers.

"We are envisioning Cyberparks with the latest high-tech communications facilities that will be perfect for call center locators, IT companies and business process outsourcing (BPO) firms," describes Ng.

Centerpiece

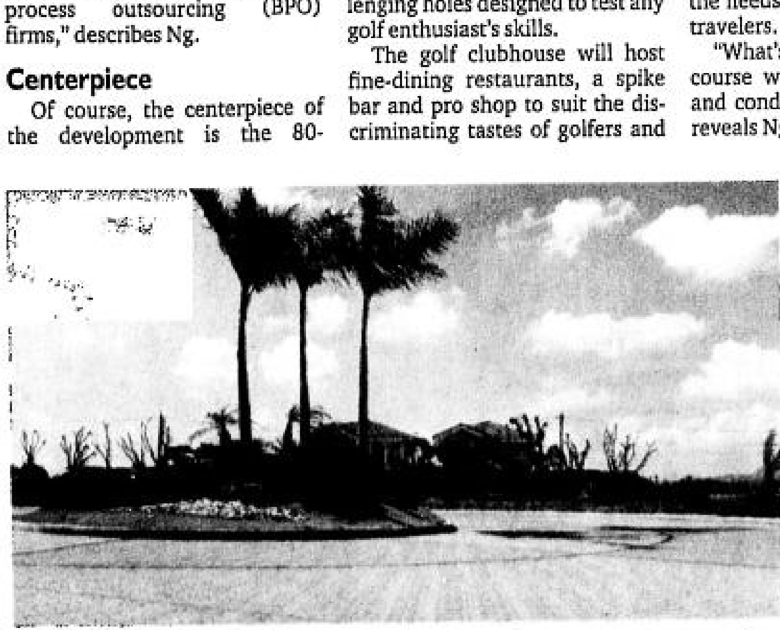
Of course, the centerpiece of the development is the 80-hectare South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club that will offer challenging holes designed to test any golf enthusiast's skills.

The golf clubhouse will host fine-dining restaurants, a spike bar and pro shop to suit the discriminating tastes of golfers and their companions, while a planned hotel nearby will cater to the needs of business and leisure travelers.

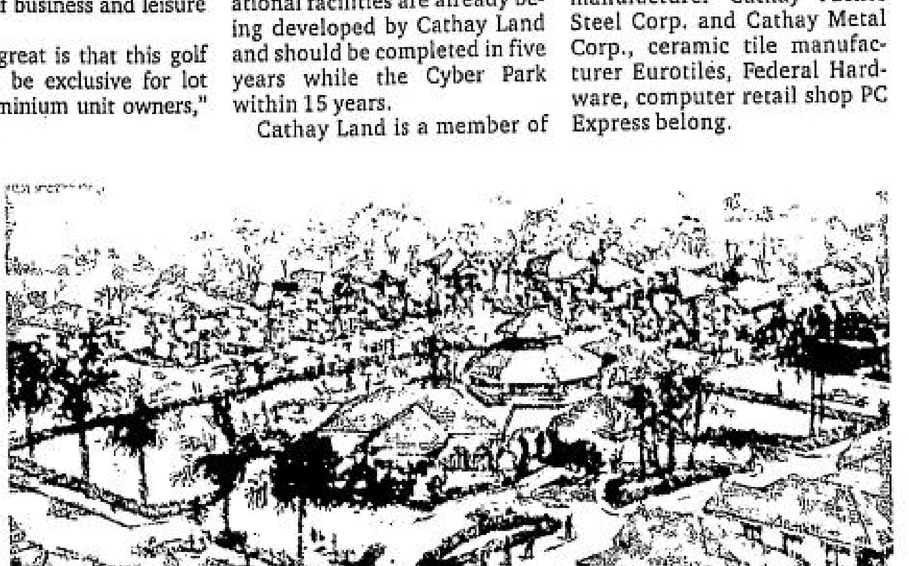
"What's great is that this golf course will be exclusive for lot and condominium unit owners," reveals Ng.

He reports that the residential subdivisions and recreational facilities are already being developed by Cathay Land and should be completed in five years while the Cyber Park within 15 years.

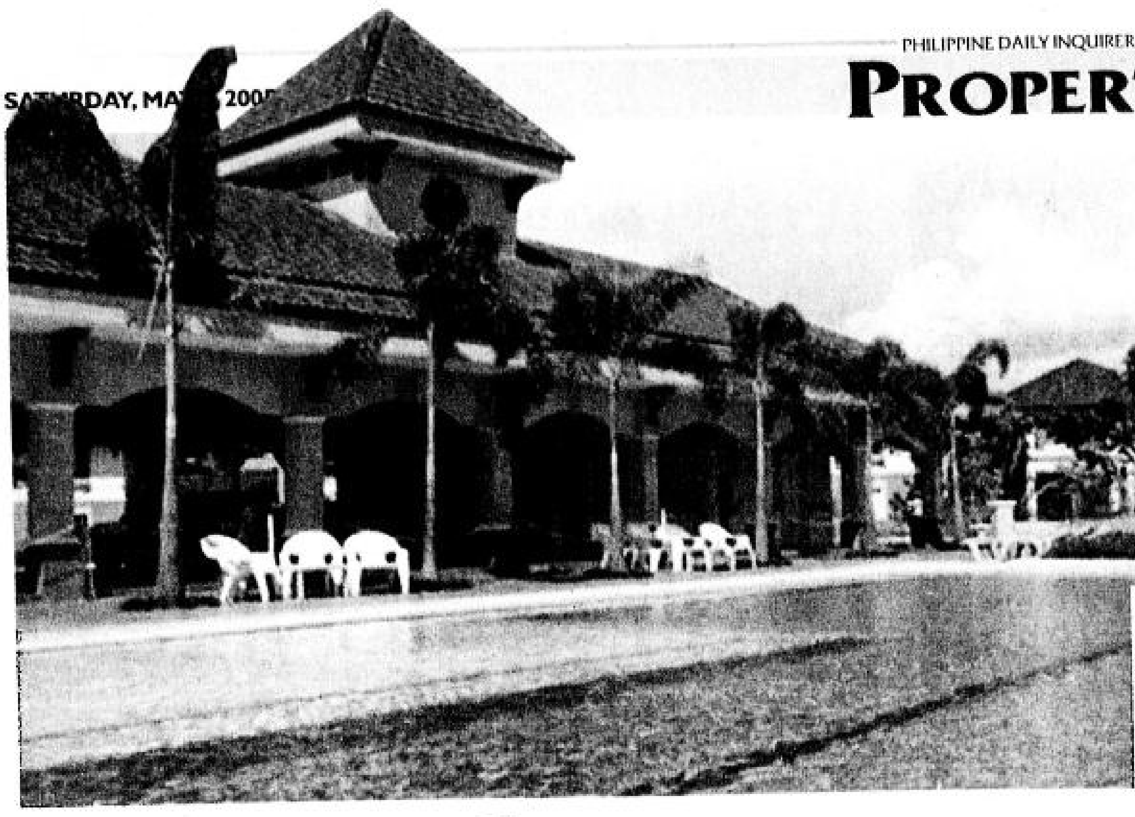
Cathay Land is a member of the Cathay Group of Companies, to which leading steel manufacturer Cathay Pacific Steel Corp. and Cathay Metal Corp., ceramic tile manufacturer Eurotiles, Federal Hardware, computer retail shop PC Express belong.



SOUTH Forbes Villas will be built in Mediterranean style, using earth tone colors extensively.



AMONG THE FIRST to rise within the development is the South Forbes Villas.



STANDARD amenities of Santarosa Estates 2 include a clubhouse, basketball court, children's play area, swimming pool and landscaped pocket parks.

Growth potential of Santarosa Estates 2 attracts homeowners

BOLSTERED by the dynamic economy of the City of Sta. Rosa Laguna, Santarosa Estates 2 has expanded to offer 120 more homes in the second phase of this highly successful LPHI community popular among young professionals and entrepreneurs.

Within one of the most progressive areas along the South Luzon Expressway corridor, Santarosa Estates 2 appeals to upwardly mobile executives as well as those who have their own business.

Quite a number of residents are employed by the multinationals that have manufacturing facilities within the Laguna Technopark including Honda Cars, Panasonic, Fujitsu and Integrated Microelectronics Inc. Along with Santarosa Estates 2, the Technopark is within the nucleus of a 4,000-hectare business center envisioned by LPHI and parent company Ayala Land as the next business center of the South.

Strong appeal

According to Dinna Bayangos, president of LPHI, the growth potential of the community account in a great part for the strong appeal of Santarosa Estates 2 to young families. Already, the Sta. Rosa community includes a range of learning institutions, a busy commercial center, churches and developed transport lines. Schools within the area include St. Scholastica, De la Salle Canlubang, Don Bosco, and a branch of the Ateneo business school.

"In many ways, Santarosa Estates 2 and the rest of the community feel like Ayala Alabang did some 15 years ago," observes Bayangos.

Amenities

With homes that range from 90 to 170 square meters and lots that go from 160 to 544 sq m, Santarosa Estates 2 already has an existing clubhouse, basketball court, children's play area, swimming pool and landscaped pocket parks.

According to project manager Joel Bautista, the amenities as well as 24-hour water and security can already be enjoyed by lot owners.

At the same time, Sta. Rosa has kept its rustic attractions. The view of Mt. Makiling remains unobstructed while breezes from Laguna de Bay blow freely. A short drive from Tagaytay, Sta. Rosa offers fresh produce as well as flowers. In informal surveys, residents have noted that Santarosa Estates combines a small-town atmosphere with big-city amenities.

Allowing expansion

Project architect Bryan de Guzman adds that the standard design of the Santarosa units' upper floors also allows expansion.

The family hall upstairs can be converted into a fourth bedroom or merged with the master's bedroom. Another option is for the master's bedroom to extend to the balcony.

For more information about Santarosa Estates 2, call 864-5744 or 814-7452/814-7590.

> The standard design of the Santarosa units' upper floors also allows expansion

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The L-shaped house is a lesson in maximizing space with great style. Three airy bedrooms, a living area and den make up most of the house's interiors. The den can be converted into a fourth bedroom or an extension of the family room. Outside of the house lies the elegant green vastness of the Sta. Elena golf course and stunning landscaped views.

Glass doors and ceiling windows are used to let the landscape in and create a continuity of open space from the interiors to the magnificent outside. The overall feeling is therefore much wider and more roomy than it actually is.

A sense of overflowing dimensions is provided by natural views from all sides and from every direction in the house. The front garden, awash in green and blooms, falls right in the line of sight of the living area—creating an interior oasis.

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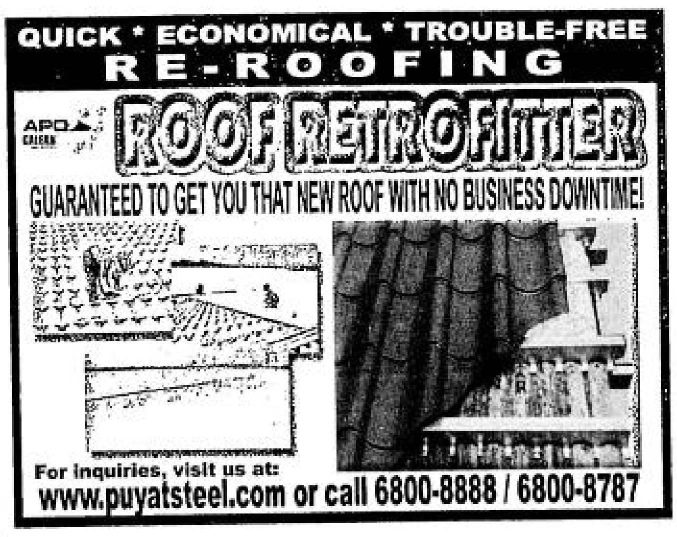

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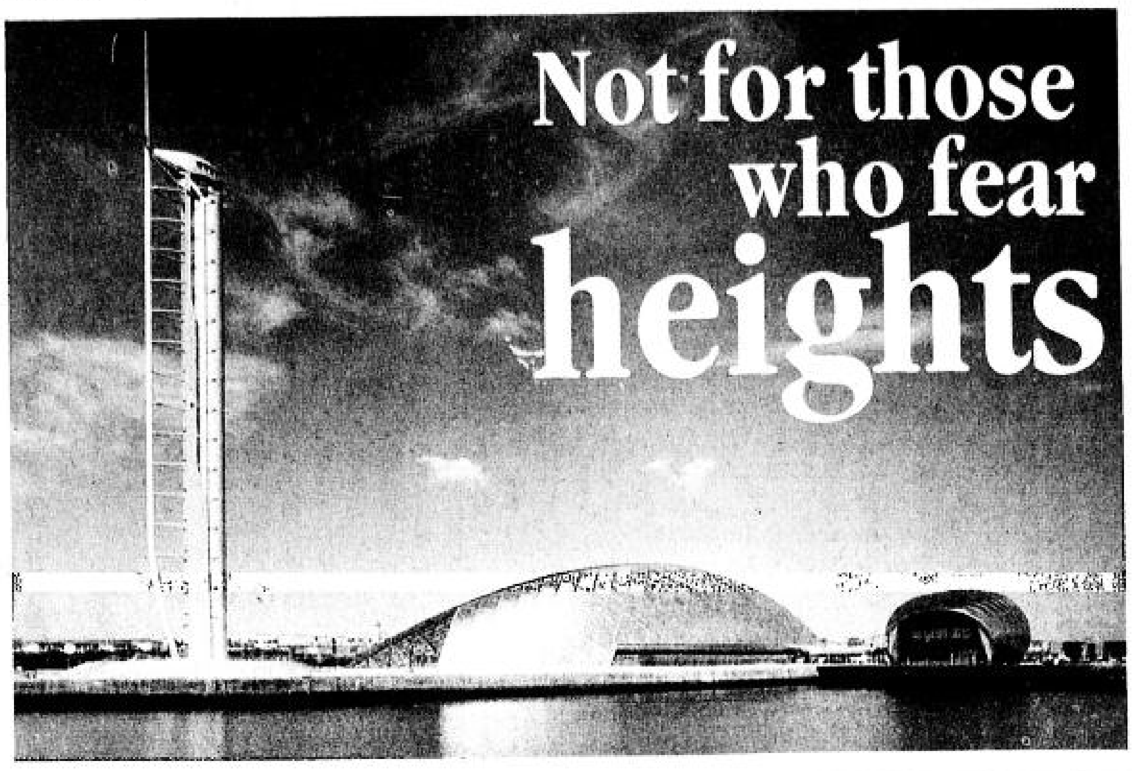


Not for those who fear heights

AMAZING STRUCTURES

IMAGINE having a tower which rotates a complete 360 degrees and wherein one can see as far as, say, Calamba in Laguna and San Simon, Pampanga.

Sounds improbable? Think again.

The Glasgow Tower at Glasgow, Strathclyde, United Kingdom, can rotate a complete 360 degrees from base to top. The world's tallest fully rotating tower measures 416 feet tall and can give views up to 64 kilometers north and south.

Closed for repairs

The tower had to be closed just a few months after it was opened in 2001 when it was discovered that the weight of the glass lifts were too heavy beyond the design tolerance which, in turn, caused the tower to sink. The £10 million rotating tower had to undergo repairs which reports say amounted to £75,000.

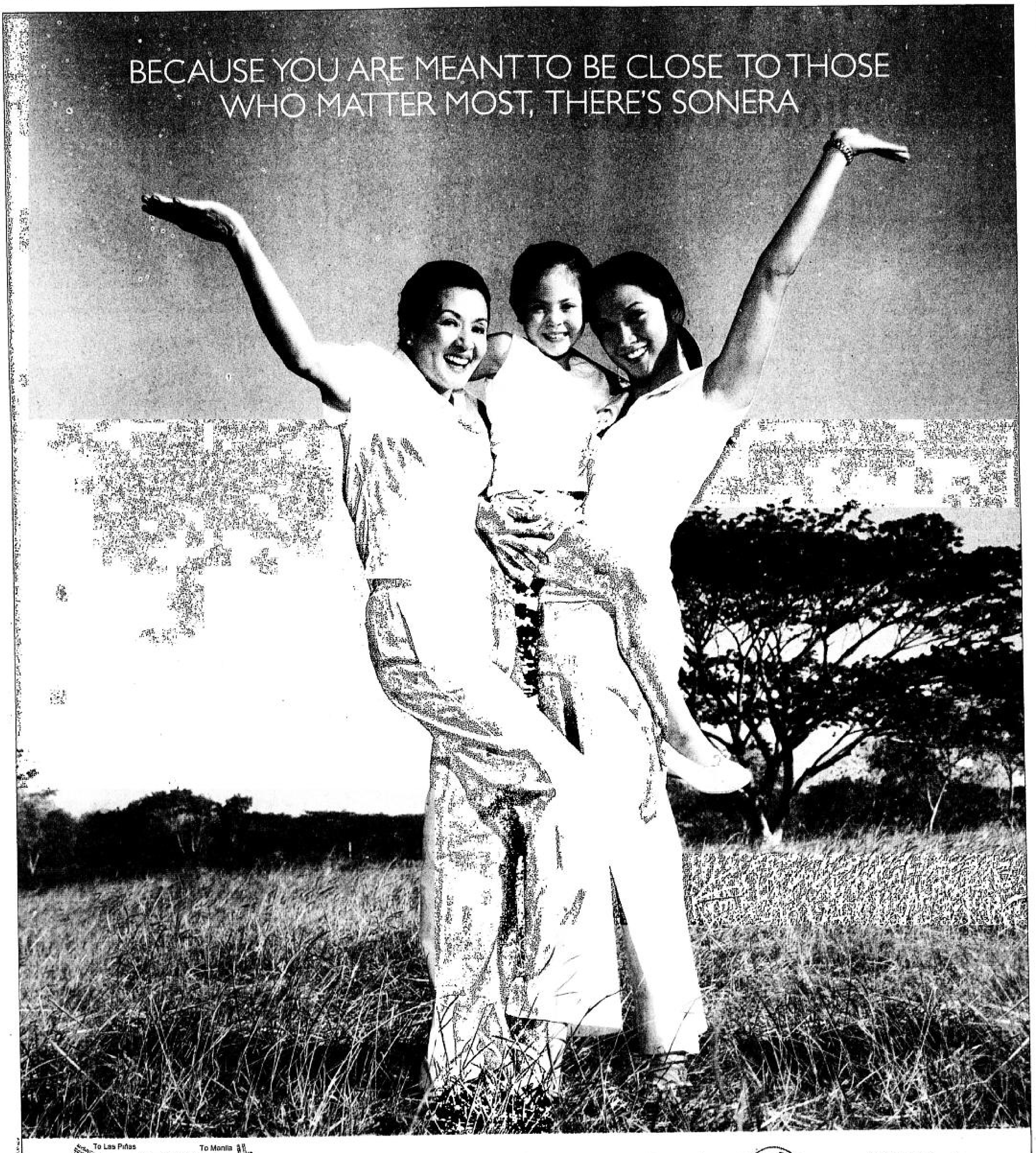
Designed by Richard Horden Associates, the tower was to include a viewing platform, a restaurant and an exhibition space. Richard Horden and aeronautical engineer Peter Heppel created a vertical wing that rotated with the direction of the wind.

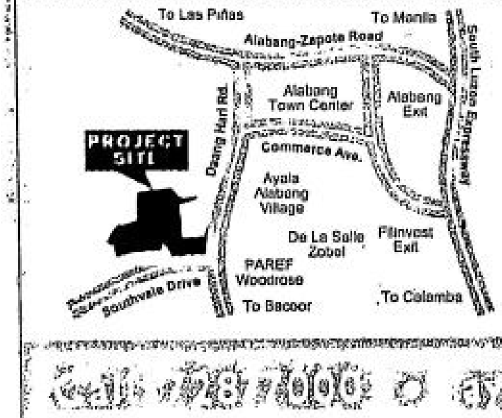
Always facing the wind

Computer-controlled mechanisms make sure that the tower is always turned to face the wind. This reduces wind resistance and enables the tower to be extraordinarily slim despite its height. he willowy giant as well serves as a weather vane for Glaswegians since it allows them to determine which way the wind is blowing.

The tower is near the Glasgow Science Center, a three-story building of interactive exhibits, virtual reality demonstrations and a planetarium, which intends to educate, and at the same time entertain, its visitors.

Dianne M. Villafuerte


BECAUSE YOU ARE MEANT TO BE CLOSE TO THOSE WHO MATTER MOST, THERE'S SONERA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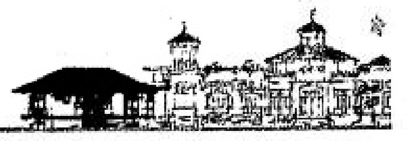
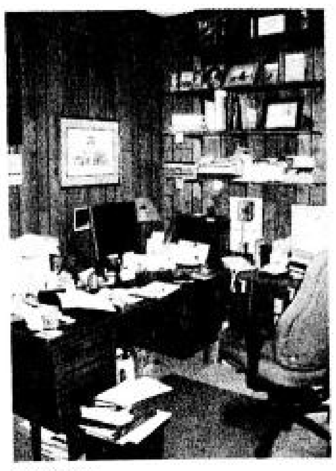


Make your home office furniture work for you

By Dianne M. Villafuerte



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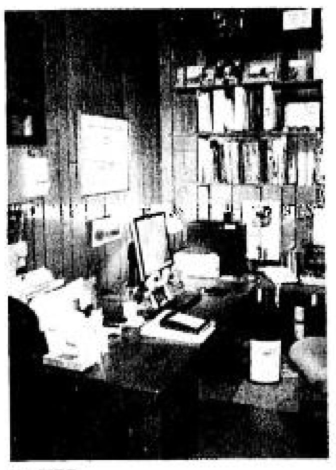


AFTER

SETTING up your home office at the "right" corner of the house to ensure its good fortune does not end there.

There's also your home office furniture to consider.

Stephanie Roberts, author of the Fast Feng Shui book series, advise that ergonomics is a very important factor for any work space. The shape, size and other design features of your desk, chair and lighting and how these will work for you should be given much consideration. It is obviously necessary to choose furniture which you think will make it easy and comfortable for you to concentrate on your working on your business.

There are those who prefer acquiring secondhand furnishings over brand-new ones. We think that since we will just eventually wear the furniture out, it is then more practical and economical to get a preowned desk instead.

FENG SHUI

Unpleasant 'predecessor chi'

While there is nothing wrong with using secondhand office furniture, Roberts warns us of the unpleasant "predecessor chi," the negative energy that may have been left behind by the previous owner of that desk or office chair. So no matter how cheap that worktable is, if it's coming from a company that went bankrupt, it will also fill your home office with the same problematic and falling energy.

Not all secondhand furniture carry ill luck, though. That office chair which used to belong to that woman who now has a villa in Perth and living a life of comfort and luxury acquired through legal and ethical means (okay, we'd like to believe such individuals do exist and breathe in the midst of us) may also bring the same favorable and helpful opportunity to you.

Relationship

Being the nostalgic and sentimental lot that we are, Filipinos are most likely to have that desk which used to belong to a great grandfather or that swivel chair which was once used by grandfather. Roberts writes that family furniture hand-me-downs also have their own good or bad energy and this depends on the relationship that you have—or had—with the family member who used to own the particular furniture you're planning to use in your home office.

A large desk may inspire you to think and work more, but a too-large desk in a too small room may also prevent chi from coming in your home office and circulating in it. Your desk chair should also be stable and provide good back and arm support. It should also be adjusted to the correct height for yourself and your work area.

Proper lighting

Proper lighting in your home office is obviously important. And so is a good view. A windowless room may make you feel isolated and stifled. If your home office has windows the size of matchboxes (and of course, we're exaggerating) or has no windows at all, Roberts recommends putting up pictures or posters of landscapes preferably with a far horizon to give an illusion of being able to see into the distance.

If the room has windows but overlook those unsightly trash bins, install blinds and keep these down, allowing light to still seep through the window while blocking away such an uninspiring view.

Mirrors

If you're blessed with a beautiful view outside your home office windows, Roberts advises having a large wall mirror reflect the view into the room so as to fill your office with favorable energy.

However, Roberts also cautions us about mirrors. A mirror in your home office which reflects your desk may symbolize twice the workload. While this is favorable income-wise, this may also mean more stress which in turn may contribute to family problems and physical and emotional burn out. And unless you're the type who keeps his or her worktable very organized and clutter-free, the mirror is said to also double your mess.

E-mail comments at fengshui.inquirer@gmail.com.

BONIFACIO HEIGHTS TOPPING-OFF

Proponents of Bonifacio Heights announce the near completion of its first phase, composed of two condominium buildings, which will soon be ready for occupancy. The project is a result of a concerted effort of the government through the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Home Development Mutual Fund, and the Department of National Defense, and private developer DMCI Homes. It will benefit the Armed Forces' officers, enlisted personnel and their families.

Living in Tarlac

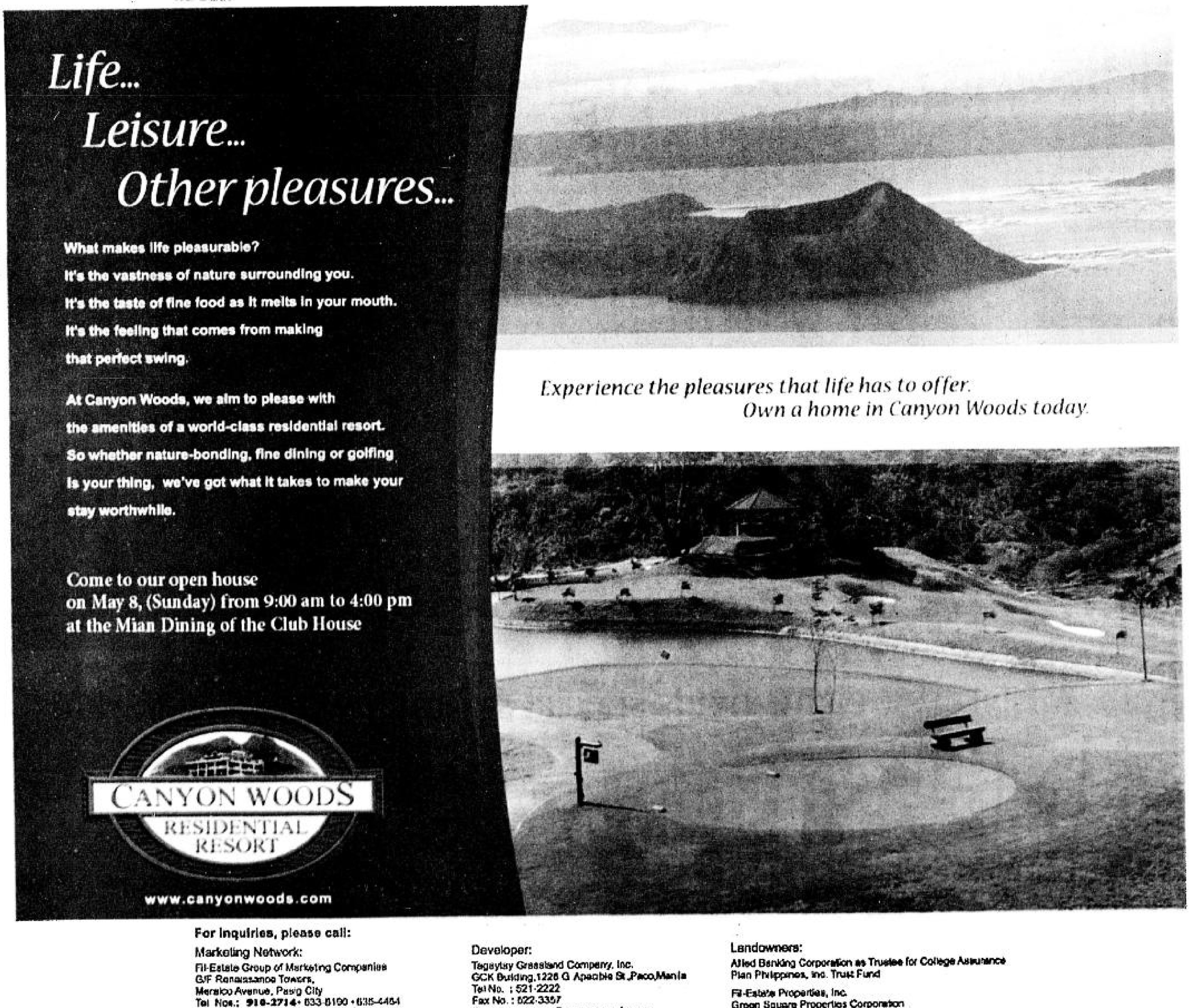
TARLAC is now the fast-rising commercial district of Central Luzon where *hacienderos*, businessmen and common people converge. It is home to Monte Verde Subdivision on Romulo Highway, San Juan de Mata, Tarlac City. A three-hour leisure drive from Manila is definitely worth taking as one embarks on a journey to this nature's haven.

Monte Verde Tarlac prides itself as a complete residential community ideal for people who are looking for the best things in life. It is a sanctuary for those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily living with its pristine surroundings and majestic landscape and yet provides them with the conveniences of the city.

Safety is ensured with a perimeter wall surrounding the entire subdivision and guarded entrance gate. Comfort and convenience is a priority with uninterrupted power supply, safe and clean water facilities, and wide concrete roads perfect for brisk-walking and jogging.

Rest and recreation is a must with facilities such as swimming pool, basketball court, tennis court, children's playground and a grand clubhouse for socialization.

Monte Verde Tarlac is now fully completed, individually titled and ready for house construction. This 50-hectare master-planned community is another project of Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc.



Life...
Leisure...
Other pleasures...

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637-2928 • 633-4408 • 6342295

Developer:
Tagaytay Grassland Company, Inc.
GCK Building,1226 G Apacible St.,Paco,Manila
Tel No. : 521-2222
Fax No. : 522-3357
E-mail: marketing@canyonwoods.com

Landowners:
Allied Banking Corporation as Trustee for College Assurance Plan Philippines, Inc. Trust Fund

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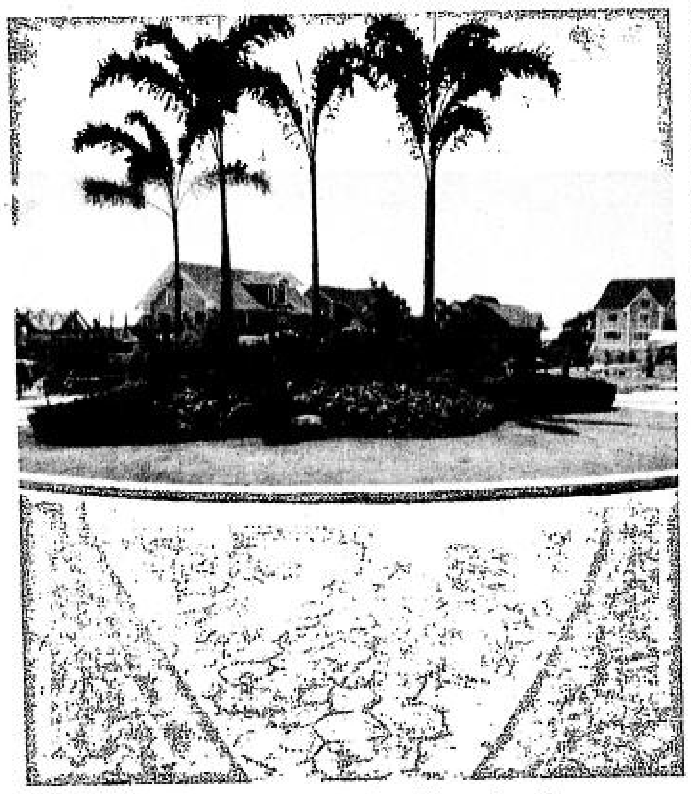
FROM FLOORS to walls, MGS pavers enable the execution of designs that provide esthetic and functional values.



MGS PAVERS create attractive, hardworking surfaces for open areas subject to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

Getting the best value out of construction pavers

VISITORS to malls, office buildings, commercial centers, restaurant complexes or planned residential communities are greeted by driveways, walkways, plazas, terraces and other open spaces. They form first impressions on entering these areas—whether a place is attractive or drab, welcoming or forbidding, modern or dated, neat or dirty.

No wonder then, pavers or those colored materials which look like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle have come into vogue in construction as surface finishing, especially for open areas subject to pedestrian or vehicular traffic. What some of the country's biggest property developments have in common is the manufacturer of their pavers, namely MGS Besser Block Inc., a byword in the construction industry, and a member of the MGS group with its range of complementary products and services that spells cost-efficiency for architects, contractors, developers and homeowners.

US-sourced technology

Unlike most other manufacturers, MGS makes its interlocking stone pavers with the Besser machine under a licensing agreement, taking advantage of US-sourced technology that results in pavers which are stronger, more durable, longer lasting in beauty and strength, and of better quality overall.

Pavers, with their various shapes, colors, hues and textures, lend themselves to designs that add esthetic and functional value to pieces of property. Functional, as in the pavers from MBS in the yards of Manila South Harbor which have strengths of up to 10,000 lb per square inch. While concrete surfaces can develop cracks that require more costly repair, pavers are sectionalized so that any repairs involve limited areas. Not only do pavers make flat surface designs possible, these can also be used to elevate one section of a surface if desired.

Homogeneous color

With Besser technology, each paver made by MGS has color that is homogeneous all throughout. The technology enables the color to be mixed in thoroughly during manufacture so that even if chipping occurs, the pavet is of the same color through and through, unlike others which are gray inside.

MGS has developed a special formula to control efflorescence, ensuring that color stays consistently bright and does not fade into different hues. Controlled efflorescence has the added value of avoiding white stains and discolorations, and color variances on surfaces as with concrete walls. The special formula produces edges that are more defined with no gaps in between, so that pavers are perfect for interlocking. Thus appearance of designs made with MGS pavers is cleaner and neater.

The physical mass of MGS pavers is densely compressed and makes them more solid and durable, resistant to damage such as chipping. This feature makes the pavers useful not only for esthetics in homes and gardens, but also for bearing vehicular traffic, as with vehicles at the South Harbor that carry 80- to 100-ton containers.

Preserving quality

An outstanding advantage offered by MGS is its ready capability not only to manufacture pavers, but also to install and maintain them, with proprietary products like MGS Pave Clean and MGS Degreaser to preserve the quality of installations. MGS accommodates projects of various scales simultaneously, with its plant able to produce 1 million pavers per month. MGS offers not only expertise but economies of scale as well.

For inquiries on pavers by MGS Besser Block, call 873-1793 and 874-4126 or visit the company website, www.mgs.com.ph.

Indigenous Filipino touch in Malayan Plaza interiors

SOME months back, a Filipino-Chinese friend dared interior designer Cecile Berdul to bring the *bahay kubo* ambience to a studio unit as a condition for her pal to buy condominium space in Ortigas. She couldn't believe she'd face the same test when The Malayan Plaza later asked her to join its Interior Design Challenge.

Not one to back off from a real challenge though, Berdul immediately went to work—researching on indigenous materials and color schemes—as she was given only a few weeks to deliver the design. The result is a model unit with enough Filipiniana touch to remind the tenant of the richness of indigenous material.

Design discipline

Berdul's design discipline is as simple and logical as it is deliberate. "I followed the law of design which states that things work well when they function according to the way they were designed," she says.

A design lecturer at the UP College of Architecture as well as the College of Home Economics, Berdul practices what she preaches. Her design vision is "balancing solid design maturity with creativity."

One look at the model unit she designed at The Malayan Plaza validates her interior design paradigm. To achieve it, Berdul made full use of the "element of color which turns everything into a visual pleasure and the element of light which enhances the colors that, in turn, create interesting moods."

What immediately catches the guest's attention is a *sawali* loveseat casually set beside an easy chair and footstool, which evokes an aura of relaxation and comfort that every urban dweller looks for in a living area.

There's a wicker trunk occupying a corner along with a three-foot cushion with two-weave matting that can double up as a small bed—perfect with banig throw pillows—where one can spend endless hours reading or simply lazing around.

And who can miss the antique-looking side table on which a miniature wooden cabinet—very much like the one where lola kept her blanched ternos—sits ready to receive anything small like car keys, pens and matchboxes.

Filipino craftsmanship

The dining area, with its wooden dining table and armchairs, highlights the craftsmanship of the Filipino furniture maker. It's the perfect place to enjoy an early morning delight of *tsokolate* and churros.

To achieve an air of spaciousness, Berdul worked a number of "un-colors" like browns, beiges, taupes, mochas and warm whites on the wall, floor, furniture and accessories. She also used the proven mirror-on-the-wall trick along with low, small scale furniture which create a light and open effect.

Spacious feeling

Using proper lighting balance, Berdul sought to enhance the colors that create a spacious feeling along with an air of intimacy. She placed uplights on the floor that cut interesting shadows on the ceiling and focus on the crystal balls and miniature etagere in the room. At the entryway, she used an unusual tower lamp and hanging downlights which are as much a piece of sculpture as they are sources of light.

Almost 90 percent complete, The Malayan Plaza is scheduled for delivery in June this year. This well-appointed 36-story condominium project is located in the heart of the Ortigas Central Business District directly across The Podium Mall and the Asian Development Bank. It's also within easy reach from the Makati business district and the Greenhills commercial hub as well as the metropolis' other major shopping destinations, restaurants, business centers and night spots.

Distinctive modern lines

The Malayan Plaza showcases distinctive modern lines conceptualized by world-renowned designer HOK International which teamed up with local architectural firm, R. Villarosa Architects, to give life to the design. Group 3 Design Studio was commissioned to complete the work on the building's interior with a timeless design.

Promising the best in upscale urban living, the building has amenities that include a fully equipped workout gym and a spacious pool deck with swimming pool and jacuzzi. The roof garden boasts of a landscaped setting punctuated by a jogging path and a golf putting green.

Two executive lounges on the 32nd and 33rd floors provide a breathtaking view of the Manila skyline and can serve as the perfect venue for large social functions, business meetings or even intimate dinners among friends. The 32nd floor lounge features a game area and entertainment center.

For inquiries, interested parties can get in touch with sales office at 670-01847, 670-01848 or (0920) 925-2551, e-mail to malayanplaza@ygcmail.com, or visit www.malayan.com.

INTERIORS of one of the condo units at Malayan Plaza

Ayala Westgrove Heights holds special summer workshop for kids

ABS-CBN writer and reporter Chito Maniago introduces participating preschoolers to each other at a summer workshop hosted by Ayala Westgrove Heights.

TODDLERS and preschoolers take part of a confidence-enhancing activity during a special summer workshop hosted by Ayala Westgrove Heights.

AYALA Westgrove Heights recently held the first workshop in a series of summer workshops for children. Chito Maniago, writer and reporter for ABS-CBN News Channel's "Bantay Kalikasan," conducted two separate personality development lectures for preschoolers and teens. The day was devoted to developing their personalities through communication-enhancing games.

Maniago,. who's had experience talking at youth leadership seminars for high school and college students, is delighted with the rare opportunity to teach youngsters basic interaction skills and confidence.

Says Maniago: "It's a fulfilling experience because the kids here are very smart. I can honestly say that I'm learning a lot from them. I'd like to commend Ayala Land for coming up with this series of workshops. Ayala Land not only develops residential subdivisions like Ayala Westgrove Heights, but it also develops fully integrated master-planned communities."

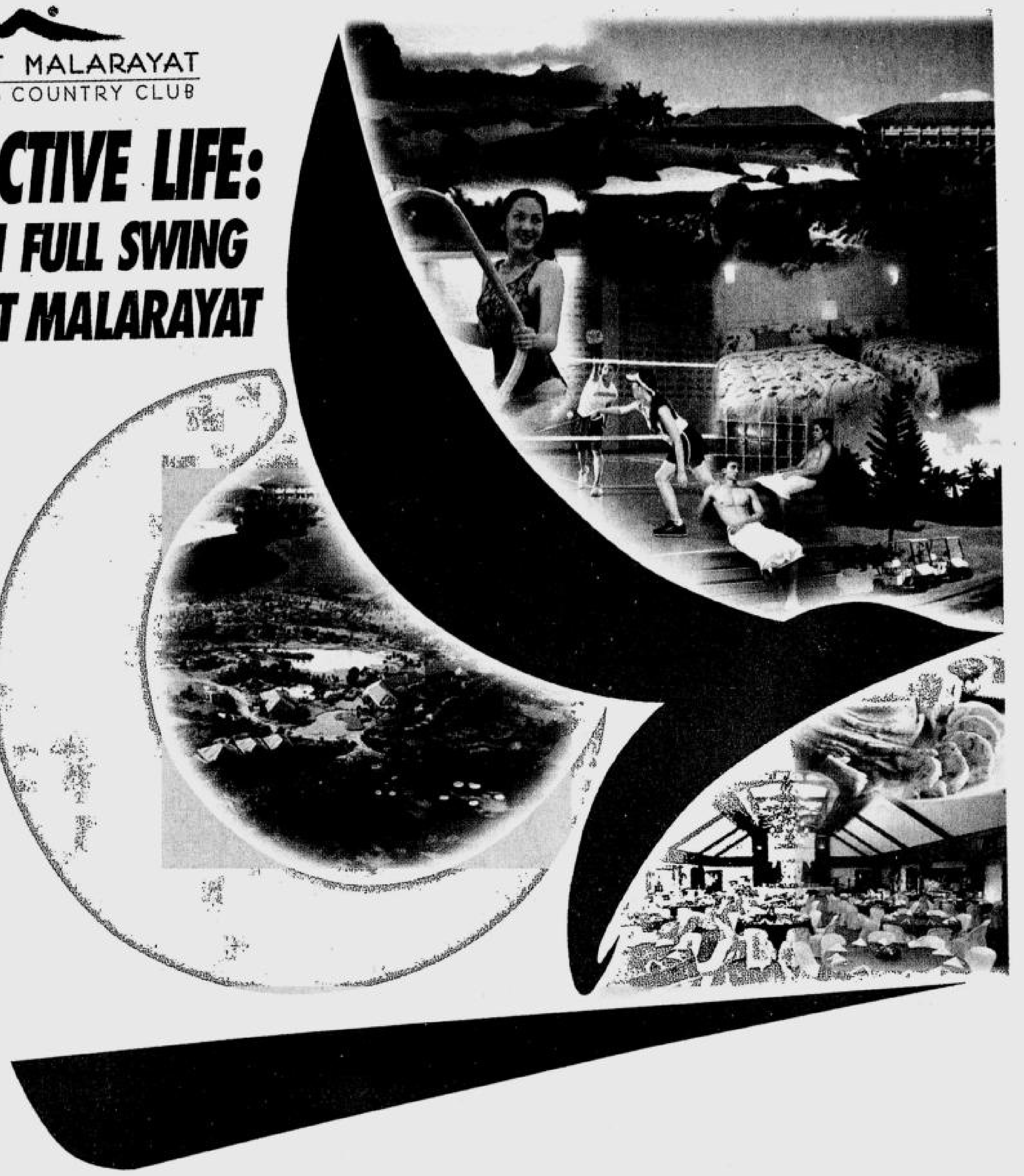
He also cites the experience as one that's valuable to people in their formative years. "The importance of this activity is that the kids get to know how to interact with each other and the things that they like to enjoy. Aside from that, values are also instilled in the activities. As early as now, kids would develop the value of cooperation, among other things," he says.

For further information about the prime subdivision and future activities, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

MOUNT MALARAYAT
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

THE ACTIVE LIFE: IN FULL SWING AT MALARAYAT

Is it by design that the year-round cool weather of Lipa, Batangas is also the ideal golfing weather in the Philippines? This gorgeous convergence is but one of the many reasons why the husband-and-wife team of architects & developers, Antonio and Cristina Turalba, set out to enhance a sprawling 200-hectare plantation into the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club.



This May 7th, the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club opens to its members and guests its hotel rooms and hotel facilities, thus taking the notion of a golf resort community to another level. It has 32 well-appointed rooms with a view – of a postcard golf course, of serene man-made lakes, and an inspiring mountainscape. The hotel rooms are spacious – some even come with lofts – furnished in a coloration of earth tones, outfitted in levels of comfort not usually associated with ordinary country clubs. The bathrooms are roomy, ideal for unwinding after a fun day on the greens.

For the family man and golfing enthusiast, the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club is the ideal golf resort destination – conveniently just an hour-and-a-half drive from the Big City, yet far enough from the urban congestion and pollution. Here, one can actually breathe in the clean fresh air and exhale – for there is something for every member of the family in this vast development that guarantees creature comforts and relishing bucolic bliss.

The country club has separate massage and sauna rooms for men & women, and a gym. There's a building intended just for kids: the children's center with kiddie-size furniture, bathroom fixtures and their own indoor/outdoor play area and swimming pool. Teeners and sporty types will have a ball with the club's facilities for athletic pursuits: basketball, billiards, bowling, darts, table tennis, badminton and squash, and an expansive free-form swimming pool accented by a rock waterfall and water fountains that jet out of the pool edges. There's also a fishing lake for more leisurely pursuits, and an equestrian center for horse lovers.

Of interest to the avid golfer is the club's 27-hole all-weather championship golf course designed by the J. Michael Poellet Design Group. Hole No. 7 on the Mount Makulot side of the course was voted among the Top 500 Best Holes in the World by *Golf Magazine*. Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club has the singular distinction of hosting this year's Philippine Open from May 19-21.

Good food goes with the good life. The Golfers Lounge serves Batangas *bulalo*, *kalderetang kambing*, crisp-fried *tawilis*, Vigan *longanisa* and melt-in-your-mouth *lechon*... These are but few of the mouth-watering dishes that, members and guests swear, make every minute of the scenic drive worth the trip. The club also has the Jose P. Laurel Hall, named after the distinguished Batangueño jurist, lawmaker,educator and former president of the Philippines, which can accommodate 300 guests for sit-down dinners. There are other function rooms of various sizes available for members and guests.

The common thread to this deluxe leisure destination is uncommonly good design in a resort-like setting. Grand in scale and distinctive in design, Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, with its residential estates and condominium components, presents a unique concept in land development that combines the features of a world-class golf course, the amenities of a luxury hotel and the leisure of high-living in a well-planned residential enclave. Inspired by the concept of the traditional *bahay na bato*, the imposing structures of the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club feature design elements that are distinctly Filipino. This ingenious interplay of modern architecture and time-honored decorative details has earned the club the *Design Award in Architecture (FY 2001-2002)* from the United Architects of the Philippines.

To complement the club's hotel rooms, there is also located within the property resort condo units known as The Suites at Mount Malarayat, and also the Inns at Mount Malarayat, ideal for its affordable rooms that make it a good choice not only for golfers wanting to rest after a game, but for families and small-group corporate meetings or seminars as well.

For inquiries about the hotel rooms, function rooms and other facilities of the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, and the Inns at Mount Malarayat, please call ***(043) 756 7006*** *or send your e-mail to* ***candy.delrosario@malarayat.com****.*

Entrance gate of Monticello Wooded Estates

ACTIVEGROUP

CELEBRATES DYNAMIC YEARS IN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

With the opening of the hotel rooms & hotel facilities of the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, the Active Group takes a prime position among developers of golf resort communities in the Philippines. In fact, its Mount Malarayat Residential Estates and Suites at Mount Malarayat have become the considered choice of foreign-based investors and enthusiasts who know a good investment when they see one.

The Suites at Mount Malarayat: Phase II condo units launched this May

This 2005, the Active Group celebrates its 35th year in real estate development – an impressive milestone compared to trendy Johnny-come-lately's – marking a steady presence in the country's real estate industry with a full range of successful projects, both in vertical and horizontal developments.

In over three decades, the Active Group also introduced trend-setting innovations now copied widely in the local real estate industry. An example is the concept of "park in every block." These open spaces are a creative and contemporary expression of the old Filipino tradition of *tambayan*, providing homeowners a venue for socializing and convenient playgrounds for children. Also, these "patches of green" provide renewable sources of cool shade and clean air for the subdivision residents. This "sensitivity to the environment," as company vice-chairman Architect Cristina Valera-Turalba puts it, underscores the Active Group's respect for nature, and the company's goal of providing a clean and healthy environment for Filipinos to live in and interact with their neighbors.

Through the years, the Active Group has established a presence in Metro Manila and the surrounding provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas. With luxury highrises like the Avignon Tower in Salcedo Village, or resort condominiums like The Suites at Mount Malarayat, the first phase of which is now all sold out. Upscale subdivisions like Town & Country Estates and Barrington Place in Antipolo. Middle-income developments like The Garden Grove and Town & Country Dasmariñas in Cavite. And even economic/socialized housing projects like San Antonio South in Biñan and Maria Cristina Village in Lipa.

The Active Group is also dynamic in Negros Occidental, where its local office is also celebrating its 10th year anniversary. Its projects there include Town & Country Negros in Talisay, Villa Cristina Subdivisions in Victorias and Kanlaon, Hillsdale Subdivision in Sagay, and Villa Antonella Subdivision in Cadiz.

The vision and passion that have spurred the Active Group into unprecedented heights over three decades are being taken into the next generation by the company's young management team, led by its president, Architect Antonio V. Turalba, Jr. Aside from expanding the residential and condominium components of the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club and Residential Estates, there are a number of new projects being lined up, or are now on stream – like the Monticello Wooded Estates in Malvar, Batangas, where development is going full blast. It is envisioned as a prime wooded estate with Old World ambiance for contemporary lifestyles.

Indeed, the Active Group, dedicated to providing "a quality of life that goes beyond shelter" in whatever market segment it serves, has created a multitude of happy homes and homeowners with imagination, a healthy respect for nature and the best interests of its valued clients in mind.

At 35, the Active Group is in full swing, with the best yet to come.

For more information about the Active Group, you may visit our website at ***www.activegroup.com****, or e-mail us at* ***info@activegroup.com.ph****.*

ACTIVE
35

MOUNT MALARAYAT
RESIDENTIAL ESTATES
LIPA CITY, BATANGAS

THE SUITES
AT
MOUNT MALARAYAT
LIPA CITY, BATANGAS

MONTICELLO
WOODED ESTATES
MALVAR, BATANGAS

TOWN & COUNTRY
NEGROS
Talisay City, Negros Occidental

TOWN & COUNTRY
DASMARIÑAS
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE

Town & Country
Heights
ANTIPOLO CITY PHASE 3

Town & Country
NORTH
MARILAO, BULACAN

Town & Country
Southville
PHASE 7 BIÑAN, LAGUNA

SAN ANTONIO SOUTH
PHASE II
BIÑAN · LAGUNA

Maria Cristina Village
LIPA CITY

HILLSDALE
SUBDIVISION
Sagay, Negros Occidental

Villa Cristina Subdivision
VICTORIAS CITY

VILLA
ANTONELLA
Cadiz City, Negros Occidental

Town & Country
SAN PABLO
San Pablo, Laguna

In-law suites

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

IF THERE is something we Filipinos can be proud of, it is the love and affection we show our elderly folks. More often than not, one of the children stays and sees to their care. We care for them for as long as they are living.

This is not the norm in most western countries. There, the elderly parents live by themselves, apart from their adult children. If they cannot take care of themselves, they either end up in nursing homes or hire the service of caregivers.

This is why nursing homes have flourished in other countries, going by so many names: homes for the elderly, retirement villages, senior citizens' homes, senior condotels, etc. The more "politically correct" the term, the more obscure the real motive appears. Never has there been as much demand for caregivers on whom to pass the responsibility for one's kin. Now sadly, even care has a tag price.

Retirement villages

For some people, the farther away the older folks live, the better. This gives them a reason not to visit too often. Today, there are retirement villages being built in our country to cater to the international market. Our country is ideal for this because of a number of reasons.

First, we have warm, balmy weather that is kinder to arthritic joints and drying skin. Second, labor is cheap, which makes hiring helpers a breeze. Third, we are a loving people by nature and are used to tending to persons of any age. Lastly, this place could be as far away from the adult children as it can get.

Admirable trait

However, for the common Filipino, we do not find it easy in our hearts to just leave our old folks in nursing homes under the care of strangers, especially when they are sick. In fact, it is considered an admirable trait to provide and care for our elderly family members.

In fairness to the adult children, even the Bible states that when a couple decides to marry, they must leave their respective homes and create a new one. This could stem from the fact that living with your parents does create a world of complications. It is unwise to have two kings and/or queens living in the same castle. It will undoubtedly create conflict and confusion for the whole household.

Architectural solution

But, take heart, because there is an architectural solution to this dilemma... The in-law suite! The in-law suite is a housing unit attached to or adjacent to the main one. It is, by itself, a complete unit with at least one bedroom, a kitchenette, a toilet and a receiving area.

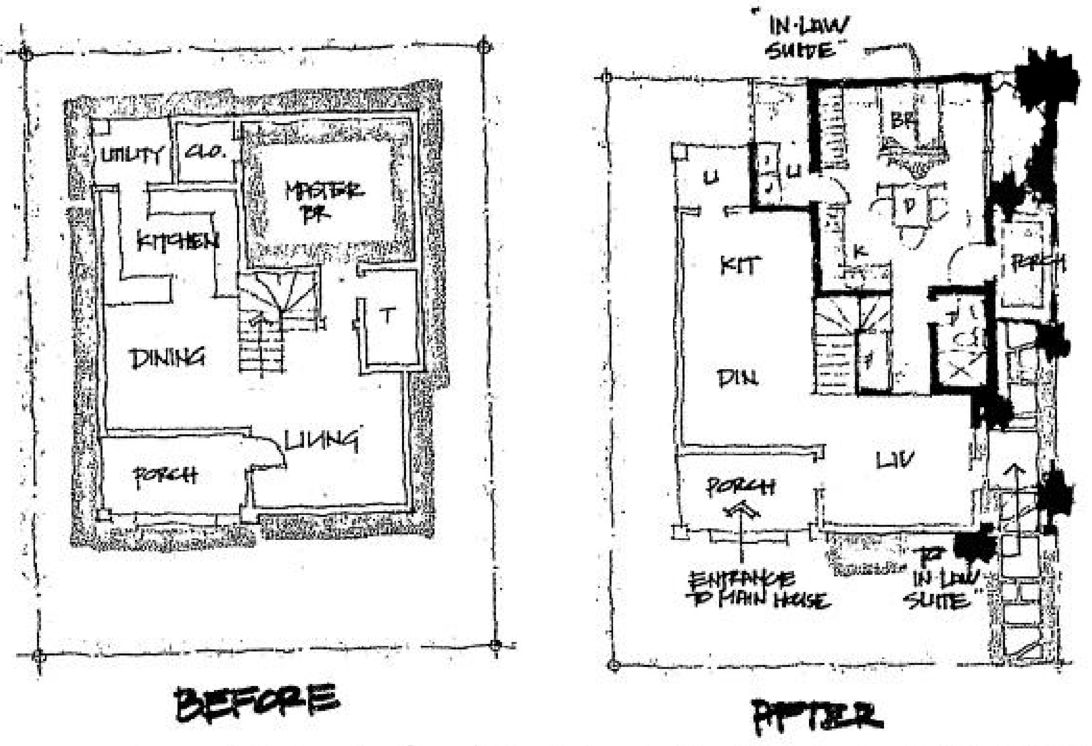
It need not be big, but must certainly have privacy. It can either be part of the original design, added to an existing structure, or planned and provided for during the renovation an existing house. Ideally, it must have its own entrance and utility connections separate from the main house.

Advantages

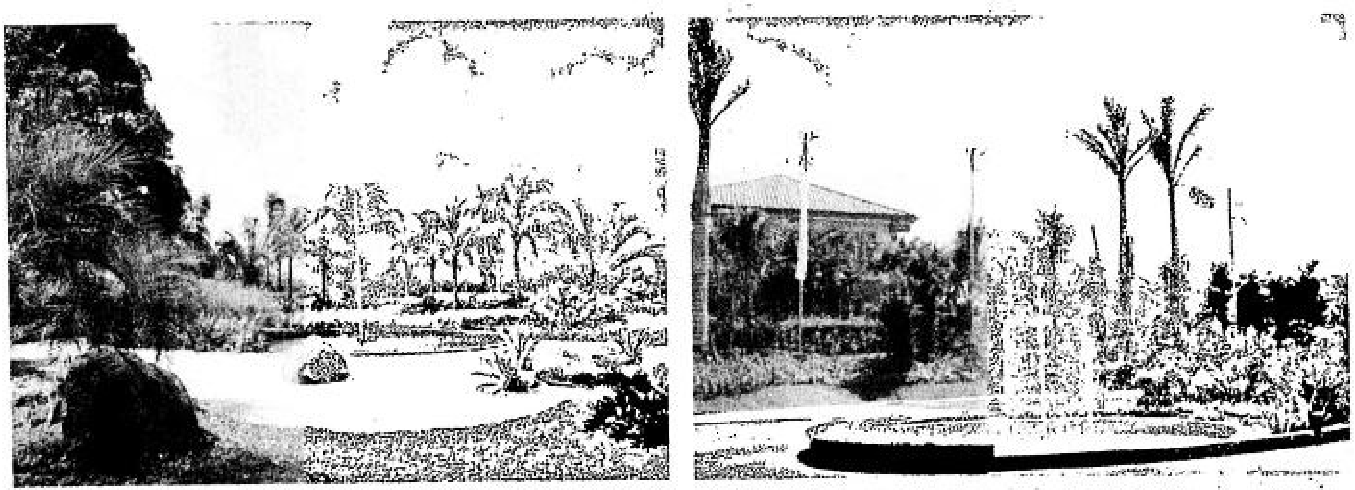
The advantages of the in-law suite are many and varied. It allows the adult children to live with the elderly parents, and still maintain each one's privacy, schedule and lifestyle. Checking on each other is easy and may be done unobtrusively.

The *apos* (grandchildren) can visit any time and share the joys of a bigger family. For the busy, young couple, an extra pair of hands and eyes may be a boon when young children are around. And, you can always go back to your mother's cooking whenever you decide you've had enough of take-out and leftovers.

Building an in-law suite need not be an expensive undertaking. You need not even tear down existing walls in your home. Careful planning is all it takes. In exchange, you could be building up your family life. The advantages may be well worth it!



HERE is an example of a compact residential unit, which may be retrofitted to accommodate an in-law suite. Bedrooms of the main house are on the upper level.



WITH ITS CARIBBEAN inspiration, this Island Park residence conveys the feeling of being in a luxury tropical resort.

A 100-HECTARE luxury community, Island Park expresses distinctive tropical themes that spell summertime.

Summertime living all year in metro south

PEOPLE, especially families with growing children, dream of living in a thoughtfully planned, high-end community where the best summer experiences can be savored all year round.

For some people, that dream means a comfortable, elegant and inviting home with an island resort theme; bright sunshine tempered by cooling breezes throughout the day; beautiful sunsets that turn into cool evenings; wide-open spaces enhanced by landscaped greenery and colorful flowers; first-rate sports and leisure facilities laid out among play parks and walkways lush with foliage; and the happy sounds of kids at play in safety and security, surrounded by fresh, unpolluted environs.

Making dream come true

But realizing that dream around Metro Manila is next to impossible, right? Not anymore. Maverick upscale property trendsetter Brittany Corp., with its roster of master-planned communities inspired by the world's best destinations, is making that dream come true with Island Park in Dasmariñas, Cavite, a collection of villages themed after the charming and breezy Caribbean.

Island Park preserves the best summertime experiences for residents all year round by combining tropical theme influences with great outdoor spaces, achieving a rare 45:55 ratio of open space to development areas in a 100-hectare luxury community.

The network of highways in the area makes Island Park's location strategic for metro residents who want to feel that it's summer every day, living in a community with the amenities and vistas of an island resort, while being just an easy drive away from business destinations in Makati, Manila and Ortigas, and leisure places like golf courses, beaches and upland retreats in nearby Tagaytay, Laguna and Batangas.

Accessible

Island Park is accessible from Alabang via Daanghari through Molino-Paliparan Highway, from Makati via South Luzon Expressway through Carmona and Southwoods Exits, from Manila via the Coastal Road from Roxas Boulevard, and from Tagaytay and Batangas through Governor's Drive where it is located.

A separate entrance will soon be open on Molino-Paliparan, making trips to Alabang even quicker.

Among Island Park's island villages is the Montego Villas, a 26-hectare island village inspired by the relaxed, colorful Caribbean lifestyle of world-famous Montego Bay.

Located between Club Island, the leisure club with a man-made lake, and Paseo Park, the sports complex set amid green trails and gardens, Montego is proximate to these facilities and ideal for resort-inspired tropical villas with commanding views of the community's scenic expanses. Its custom home sites range from 300 square meters to 700 sq m, available from P3 to P7 million.

Property dev't consultants

Inputs to Island Park's planning come from some of the world's best property development consultants: David Jensen and Associates, the land planning and design firm from Denver, Colorado; and the SWA Group, landscape architecture and urban design experts in California, known for creative landscaping that respects the environment and adds value to property.

Families who want to see first-hand what summertime living year-round is like can arrange visits to Island Park by calling 850-6986 and 850-2868.

THE YOUNG and young at heart rediscover every day the joy of living amid fresh, unspoiled environs.

SUMMER is about enjoying the outdoors. Island Park residents can do so all year, with fun activities like kite flying, right in their community.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2005

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C1

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Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super!Countdown

25 days 'til Super! anniv

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

milf

Boy George in Manila! page C3

Faith Amigo Mom, I love foam page D2

Iya Villania back to back page E1 with **Corey Wills**

Tessa welcomes Athena into this world page F2

Photography: VICTOR CONSUNJI
Styling: CHARMAINE PALERMO
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Teach me Love

Basic Instinct

Mother knows best. And she will never let you forget it.

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

IN OBSERVANCE of all things colonial in this country we celebrate Mother's Day tomorrow. We find ourselves doing last minute gift purchases, dinner reservations, hastily writing a card, or perhaps, a tattoo(?) done as a "momage." Mothers are like supreme beings. They can bargain a shopkeeper down to bankruptcy, out-prescribe a medical professional in remedies, and know the ABSOLUTELY MOST PERFECT boyfriend/girlfriend/husband/wife/doctor/route to take/place to shop/food to cook/gift to bring (fill in the blanks). Plus, they are the All Seeing Eye and even while creeping home after a night of debauchery with fantastic lies and excuses building up in your head, one split second of a mother's gaze locking into your glassy one the next morning has you sputtering the ugly truth.

Whether your taste is aligned or not to your moms is irrelevant. Mother knows best. And she will never let you forget it. Some mothers are so sensitive that they can tell EXACTLY how you feel about their latest purchase, culinary effort, or whatever it is they ask your opinion about (are those alien probes?) without you uttering a word! This truth seeking mommy missile can put the entire cast of Alias to shame. Granted that they're not always right, and yes there are some mothers who are clueless of the world beyond their mahjong table, many seem to be precognitive with regard to YOUR life. This may extend to our choice in partners or friends, and when we come home tattered and torn from life's battlefield, they raise an eyebrow as if to say "I saw that loser coming a MILE away… but did you listen?…"

Sixth sense

Wouldn't it be awesome if we, children of the precogs, could also develop our intuition, and use it wisely to make decisions for ourselves about the situations and people around us? This "sixth sense" is a gift that is inherent in everyone. You do NOT have to go the "I see dead people route" (creepy music) but certainly can become more sensitive to the Undead. Yes, I mean the living. Try this out:

STOP AND LISTEN. Due to the barrage of fast moving images, fast songs, fast internet speed, we expect instant answers, reactions, replies. With all the mental noise we do not allow ourselves to distinguish between what is intuitive and what is just "noise". Your initial or basic instinct about something or someone comes expressly delivered from your gut. The moment you allow your mind (or past fears and experiences) to "rationalize" what you just felt, you dilute the truth. Try not to taint what you initially feel with facts and figures, intuition is intangible.

Hear something?

ASK AND REFLECT. If you are Christian then you may opt to pray. Prayer has its benefits, but sometimes in prayer one becomes engulfed in asking, thanking, asking, thanking that there is no lapse at all in mental and/or verbal action to LISTEN to a reply. Ask and you shall receive is the truth. So after you ask, shut up, really. Quiet the mind and quiet the self and allow God a WORD in. Have you ever been in a conversation with your closest friend both of you at the same time? Do you truly hear what your friend is trying to say? Like in prayer, you have to be polite and enable who you are talking to, to answer. Revel in the silence and you WILL hear something.

That sounds ridiculous doesn't it? And come on, how do you REALLY REALLY know if what you feel is REALLY REALLY REAL? (say that three times and fast) Practice. Seriously, intuition is a muscle that needs to be flexed. And if you can't find truth in yourself, then where else are you going to find it? Or do you keep asking mother (it worked for Norman Bates, you say)?

YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE. Look back… If you're old enough to read this, then you MUST have made at least ONE correct decision in your life. Can you remember exactly what you felt back when you made up your mind that made everything fall into place? The thing about foresight is that you can only recall it in hindsight. There was a time (maybe several) what to do next, was all up to you.

Back to the Mothership.

My own theory on why mothers are practically psychic when it comes to their children is because they too made a perfect choice once, they chose to be a mom, and in that, they were granted special powers. So, you may want to cut them a little slack.

I am aware that there are many mother-child relationships that are in dire need of nurturing and connection. There are those who are in harmony and I have been blessed with a mother who, though not always "right," was always coming from the right direction, one guided by love. For this mother's day, I would like to urge you to make peace with the woman who brought you into this world. Whatever the state of your relationship with your mom to her credit, she did what she felt to be best for you. And if you are not reading this from behind bars, then she didn't do such a bad job.

Here ends my momage. Happy Mother's Day Mommies!!

PHILIP… Super …UIRER

By George, It's Boy George!

24/7

Janine Cuenca-Dario

IF YOU thought last week was rip-roaring fun, wait till you see the line-up of exciting upcoming events. And since you've reached that dizzying momentum, there's absolutely no reason to slow down.

Boy George at the NBC Tent

Tonight at the NBC Tent [Fort Bonifacio Global City], this iconic former lead singer of the 80's British supergroup Culture Club makes a comeback and a Karma Chameleon-like transformation into one of the world's most popular DJs. And although he won't be coming to sing his once hypnotic tunes, his 21st century fans will definitely love dancing to his pulsating house tracks in his first ever visit to the Philippines. Fellow DJ Marc Vedo partners with Boy George in this Manila leg of the Koolwaters Asian Tour. Tickets at Ticketworld, phone 891-9999.

Emm Gryner Philippine Tour

Filipino-Canadian singer-songwriter and critically-acclaimed Emm Gryner continues her much awaited homecoming tour at Capones tonight, at Saguijo [7612 Saguijo St., San Antonio Village, Makati] on Tuesday, May 10 and at M1 Greenbelt on Wednesday, May 11. This front act for David Bowie and guest performer at the shows of Konan, Leno and Letterman will visit her Cebu and Boracay fans next week.

Classical Concerts

Also tonight, 120 Filipino and 50 Korean children trained in the style of Suzuki (the music method, not the vehicle) will be performing classical music together in a goodwill Friendship Concert on Saturday, May 7, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in celebration of Children's and Mother's Day at the Fleur de Lis Auditorium [St. Paul University Manila, 680 Pedro Gil St., Malate, Manila]. For tickets call 724-0705, 724-2543 or mobile numbers (0915) 363-9621 and (0920) 469-8706.

This Sunday, celebrate her special day by taking your mother out to a memorable concert and capture that Hallmark moment. The country's most outstanding musicians from the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band and Peace Philharmonic Philippines kick up a Storm of a musical at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza. Scott Stroman conducts.

Kitchie Nadal at Enchanted Kingdom

Make like a child and head off to the city's only theme park to catch this rock queen and current 24/7 cover girl.

I'm taking my mother along to the exciting rides and reversing our roles for one day. It will be a blast.

Poly Creativists

Photographer Andy Maluche whose work has been immortalized in Super!, exhibits his visually vibrant photographs at the Mag:net Gallery [G/F, Paseo Center, 8757 Paseo de Roxas] until May 16.

Once On This Island

Friday the 13th is a lucky day for theater aficionados as this well-loved Broadway musical will have its premier showing by Actor's Actors, Inc. [536-5844] at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, 3/F, RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues. It showcases a powerhouse cast including Michael Williams, Menchu Lauchengco, Michael de Mesa, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Bituin Escalante and Radha Cuadrado. Theater veteran Bart Guingona directs the musical which will run until May 29. Call 891-9999 for tickets.

Also this week:

May 7, Saturday

General Eclectic with BBC DJs at Capone's
Lounge at Paseo Uno
Dance Deluxe at Embassy
Dancehall Saturdays at V Bar
House & RnB at Temple
DJ ScratchMark at Prince of Jaipur
Dezi Nights with DJ Lavz at Bollywood

May 8, Sunday

Jose Enrique Soriano exhibit at UP Vargas Museum
Forza Interna: Nudes Photographs at Galerie Astra
Roberto Robles exhibit at Galeria Duemila

May 9, Monday

British Animation Festival, Shangri-La Plaza Cinemas
I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos
Rock/Motown: Mondaze at Absinth
Acoustic Night with Release at Temple

Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood

Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar
Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah!

May 10, Tuesday

Italian Film Festival at CCP
British Animation Festival at Shangri-La Plaza Cinemas
Eclectic: Top DJ's Jam at Absinth
Spirit of 67 at Captain's Bar
Bloomfields at Dish
Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah!
Emm Gryner at Saguijo

May 11, Wednesday

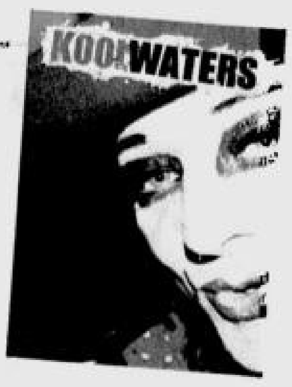
Emm Gryner at M1 Greenbelt
Superklasse at Embassy
Singles Night at Temple
Ladies Night with Wendel Garcia at Prince of Jaipur
Steak Wednesdays at Absinth
Oona at Dusit Hotel
Big Birthdays at Bed
Nyoy Volante at Eastwood

May 12, Thursday

Phuture Thursdays with Cocoy Puyat at Bed
Onda Latina at Café Havana Greenbelt
Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Malate
Silk at Dusit Hotel

May 13, Friday

Once On This Island at Carlos P. Romulo Theater
BAILA! at Shangri-la Plaza
Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's
Musik at Embassy
Steve Mills at V Bar
Jon Herrera at Temple
Friday The 13th at Bed
Masquerade Ball at Government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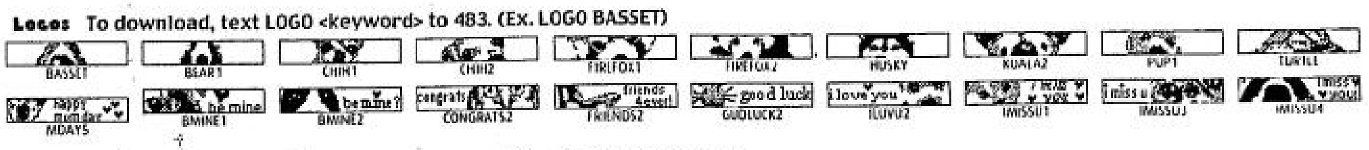
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CHIH2
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HUSKY
KOALA2
PUP1
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happy mum day
MDAYS
be mine
BMINE1
be mine?
BMINE2
congrats
CONGRATS2
friends 4ever!
FRIENDS2
good luck
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ILUVU2
i miss you
IMISSU1
i miss u
IMISSU3
i miss you!
IMISSU4

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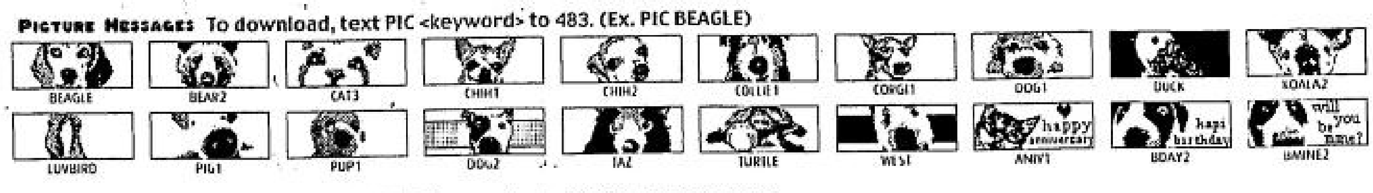
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CAT3
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CHIH2
COLLIE1
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DOG1
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KOALA2
LUVBIRD
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PUP1
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TURTLE
WEST
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ANIV1
hapi birthday
BDAY2
will you be mine?
BMINE2

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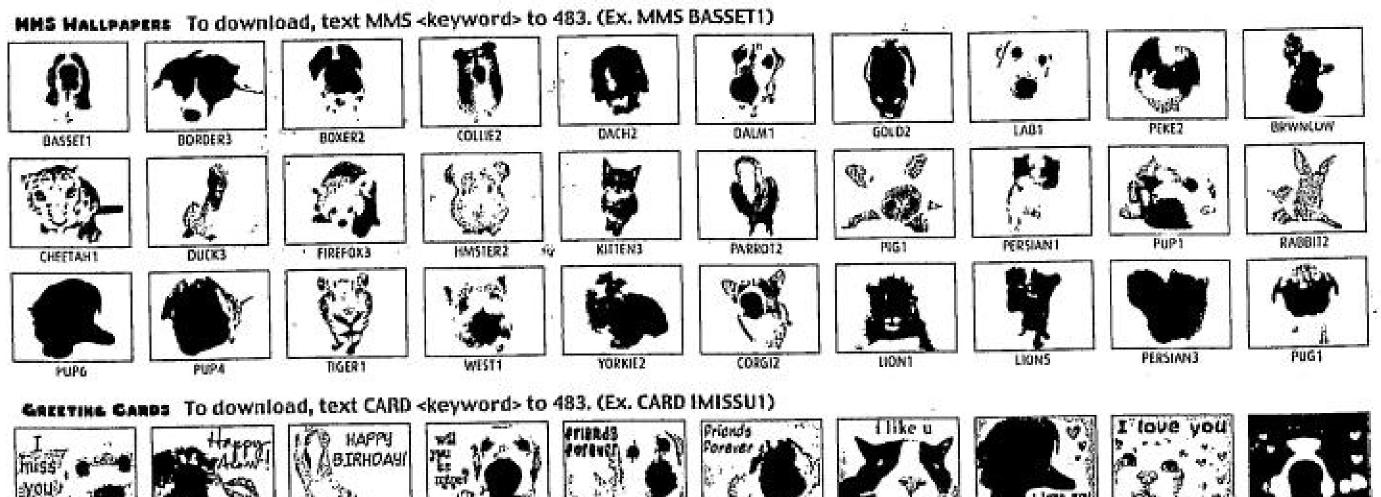
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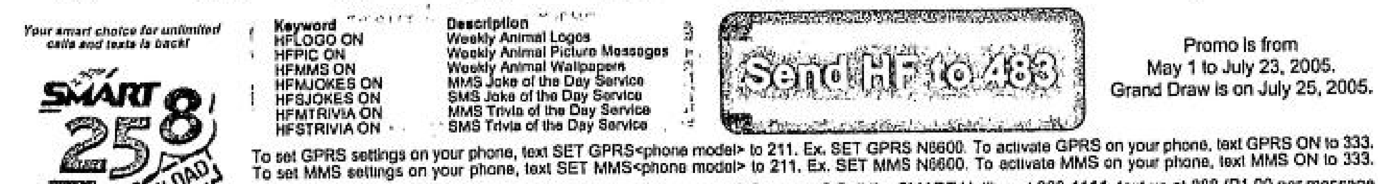
I miss you
IMISSU3
Happy Anniv!
ANNIVA2
HAPPY BIRHDAY!
BDAY6
will you be mine?
ADMINE1
friends forever
FRIENDS1
Friends Forever
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PHOTOS BY GINO DE LA PAZ

It's really okay to pig out in Piquant

Low in fat but high in flavor? There's a place in Makati that serves exactly this kind of food

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

HEALTHY. Eating. Habits. For most people, those three words have the power to resurrect childhood traumas involving vegetables (*ampalaya* for me), images of lettuce-munching bunnies, or visions of a future without *sisig*. Yikes! But whatever. Toss those ideas to the side for now and hear me out. It's apparently possible to eat right and feel, you know, totally not deprived.

My friends and I recently road-tested Piquant, a new place in RCBC Plaza that serves really yummy dishes that are low in fat but high in flavor. Managing director Rem Zamora (formerly of Insomnia in Malate) and his partner Danette Holmes decided to open Piquant early this year after making major changes in their eating habits. "We saw a lack or absence of restaurants that served mainly healthy fo[illegible]d," he says.

And for [illegible]em, the reason for starting up the restaurant was also rather personal. "I joined a body improvement challenge at the gym and realized that working out, healthy eating habits and a low-fat diet all go hand-in-hand," he shares. So Rem started making salads, baking fish, and choosing white meat. "I really cook so I prepared my breakfast, lunch and dinner myself. I was careful not to fry food to within an inch of its life, which is what our maids at home tend to do." After all, healthy food is not all *gulay* (vegetables). Preparation also has a lot to do with it. And will power, too. Tons of it.

It became a lifestyle so he and Danette thought it would be the perfect business. But why Piquant? "We had a really hard time finding a name. We even wanted to name it 'The Sassy Pea!'" Rem confesses. Thank God for Webster. "I came across the word 'piquant' in the dictionary and the definition convinced us that that was 'the name.'" I Googled it, too, and found out that the word means "agreeably stimulating to the palette." Since their priority was delicious food that was also good for you, the name said it well.

Anything but bland

"What? Nourishing food disguised as ordinary food? What is the world coming to? This

IT'S REALLY/ D2

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VICTORY LINER. Chinggay Andrada and Victor Consunji

BRENT Javier all bubbled up

MR. CLEAN. Cedric Lee gets soap sudded

ARCHITECTURAL BUBBLE. Faith with Pandy Lichauco

SOAP STARS. Cherrie Del Rosario and Faith Amigo

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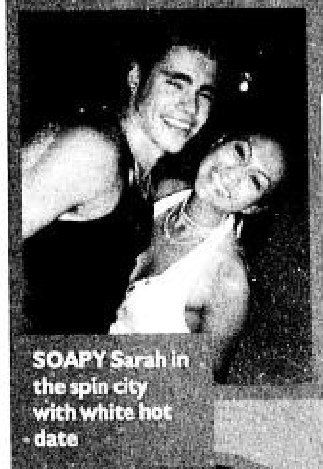


SOAPY Sarah in the spin city with white hot date

RINSE CYCLE. DJ Manolet Dario

WASHING MACHINE. Cleanse us all of our sins

Bubbles, bangles and beads

MILF here stands for Mom, I love foam!

Tim Yap

FAITH Amigo is the ultimate MILF. In tip-top shape and a woman of these times, as well as a mother with a son who is proud to have a mom like Faithy. Just recently, she bested countless other teenage bombshells by garnering first runner up status in the Miss Hawaiian Tropic pageant. You also hear her voicing out her opinions regularly as a radio DJ at Magic 89.9.

But more than that, her greatest achievement is being well loved in a scene that thrives on gossip and pulling each other down. She is never the type to dwell on negativity and would rather improve herself than get stuck in a rut. Just recently, she went through some challenges but managed to tell herself—"I shall get over this. I am a strong woman."

Nope, she didn't change her hairstyle nor did she plan to move to another country. She focused on herself, poured her energy into fitness. "I wanted to show the world that if you set out to do something, you could really do it." In our scene, women who are not in their late teens and those with children at an early stage have to fight harder. And she did. And she won.

When she turned a year wiser, what better way to celebrate than gather all your buddies (in Faith's case, Manila's 500 most fun people to hang with) and get them all wet? The venue was photographer **Victor Consunji**'s poolside studio (where most of our Super! covers have been produced) and the happening? A fun, fun foam party!

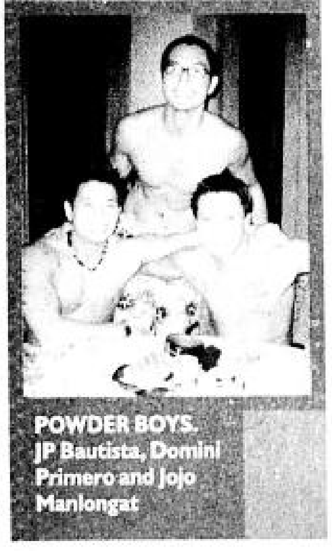
Now, the concept of having a foam party isn't really new. But the last one I attended was during the Sambo's days with **Robin da Roza**. But this was no ordinary party. That Saturday night, the usual suspects where nowhere to be found in the city's nightspots. They were busy getting soaked at Faith's foam party. With an invite coming from Faith, how can you say no?

I arrived in a full suit, which was of course the wrong thing to do, so I went back much later in clothes that screamed, "Tide!" Within the bubble wrap, I spotted **Brent Javier**, **Aimee Marcos**, **Domini** and **Joanne Primero** (whose baby **Mulawin** is turning one today), **Jon Osmeña** and a host of other party scene staples.

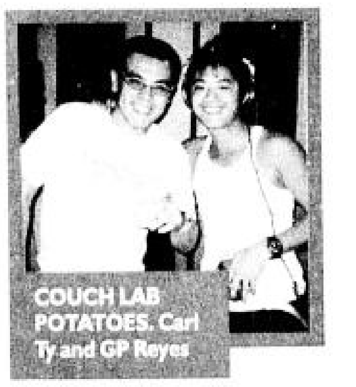
It was one big washing machine, with partyphiles getting their much needed summer cleaning. The whole pool was covered with bubbles, the ladies still wore their bangles, and beads of white suds was all over the Consunji abode. Young scions of society, the B boys, the Young Guns, the B Girls—all party scene sub culture vultures, threw bubble balls (since I can't call them snow balls) at each other. Girls gone wild, guys gone even wilder hopped in and out of the pool in search of that elusive rubber ducky.

Bikini-clad Faith, showing off her va-va-voom vivacity, was all to happy to serve her guests—until sunrise where a buffet breakfast was waiting for the soap studded—I mean sudded guests. Now that's a MILF—mom, I love foam! How's that for a wet 'n' wild summer.

And you thought moms don't know how to have fun.



POWDER BOYS. JP Bautista, Domini Primero and Jojo Manlongat



COUCH LAB POTATOES. Carl Ty and GP Reyes

It's really okay to pig out in Piquant

From page D1

EXCUSE ME, I just burped

is an outrage!" I thought out loud.

"Just shut up and eat!" growled the waiter, spitting into my Eggs Benedict with Poached Shrimp and Tomato Coulis (P125).

Psych! That didn't really happen. I just thought it would make for a slightly dramatic segue.

See, Piquant's menu is thick with Atkins- or South Beach-friendly recipes, all greenlit by their consultant Jeff Catral. I began with their best seller, Romaine Salad with Tofu-Caesar Dressing (P120). Unlike bottled Caesar dressing, Piquant's had the garlicky bite without the eggy aftertaste. Chug-a-lugging some carrot and apple juice (P40), I then inhaled the Grilled Rosemary Chicken with Roasted Tomato and Cucumber Sauce (P165) and the Blackened Fish with Succotash (P195).

As if that wasn't enough, I polished it all off with three—count 'em, three—desserts: Yoghurt Cheesecake (P95), Strawberry Meringue (P95) and Strawberry Mousse Chocolate Torte (P95). With everything below P240, it was pretty hard not to pig out. What can I say? I'm a stomach with legs. I'm retarded. My friends were appalled. Nauseated even. But moving on.

Eat less, move more

Crisp and clean, Piquant's Barney-the-Dinosaur-purple chairs, marble-top tables and leather-upholstered walls were all designed by Ana Angara. "She kept it simple so you notice the food," Rem explains. It worked, especially for me. (See previous paragraph.)

Despite a seating capacity of only 30, Piquant has attracted a steady stream of quality clients. "Our guests are mostly ex-pats from the Australian, Canadian, and German embassies, as well as Unicef and the European Commission. The executives from RCBC and other companies are also major regulars," he continues. "Next to that are members of nearby Fitness First. We also have customers from GT Tower, McCann-Erickson, and Makati Med." Now, me. And maybe you, too.

Rem stresses that exercise is still crucial to overall fitness. "Eat less, move more" is the basis of any weight loss program that is successful in the long term. "You should make wholesome eating habits part of your workout routine." Note to self: No more double cheeseburgers even after 45 minutes on the cross-trainer. (Insert cynical moaning here.)

Being and staying healthy

By dishing up low fat—and tasty—alternatives, Piquant hopes to un-supersize the public. "We want to offer a delicious choice for people already conscious of their diets, those people that find it difficult to eat out often because most restaurants don't offer many healthy choices. We also want to help those people who have not yet made the change to a healthier diet, by showing them that low fat doesn't mean giving up flavor or variety."

Being healthy and staying healthy are two entirely different things but Piquant can hook you up and help you achieve both. Rem concludes, "When we hear a customer say 'This is low fat food? I could eat this way,' then we know we're accomplishing what we set out to do." Bring on the food, baby.

Treat your mom (or whoever) to breakfast, lunch and dinner at Piquant. Yay!

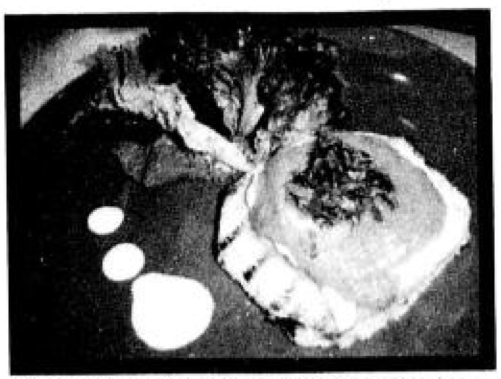
Piquant is located at RTO12 Podium 3, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City. Open Mondays to Fridays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tel. (632) 729-3452

Email: piquant.health@gmail.com.

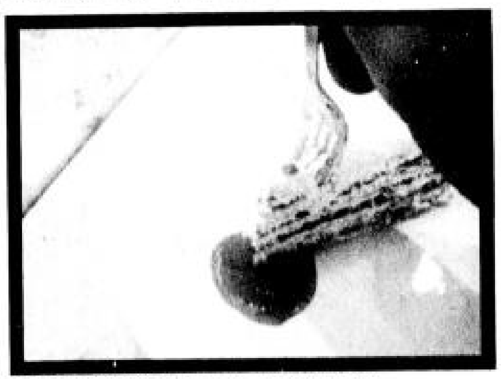
Piquant delivers within the RCBC building and the immediate vicinity for a minimum order of P200.

ATKINS FRIENDLY... SOUTH BEACH FRIENDLY... I AM FRIENDLY. Blackened Fish with Succotash



INCREDIBLE EDIBLE. Grilled Rosemary Chicken with Roasted Tomato and Cucumber Sauce

PROTEIN POWER. Lemongrass Chicken with Two-Mushroom Duxelle



LET THEM EAT... Strawberry Meringue

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BBLE PIE. n gets eaky clean

JIGGER ME TENDER. Jessica Guevarra, Jigger Antonio and Joanne Primero

YULO YUMMY. Osang Yulo with birthday girl Faith

YOUNG GUNS, UNITE! Mary Ann Sansano and Mark Reyes

THE NEW IT. Mickey Crespo gets into the action

FAITH IN MY MAYOR. With Sherwin Gatchalian

DETERGENT DAREDEVILS. Jigger, Marcel, Cherrie, Celine and Faith go bubbly, bubbly, bubbly!

Catch Unbeatable Sony Deals

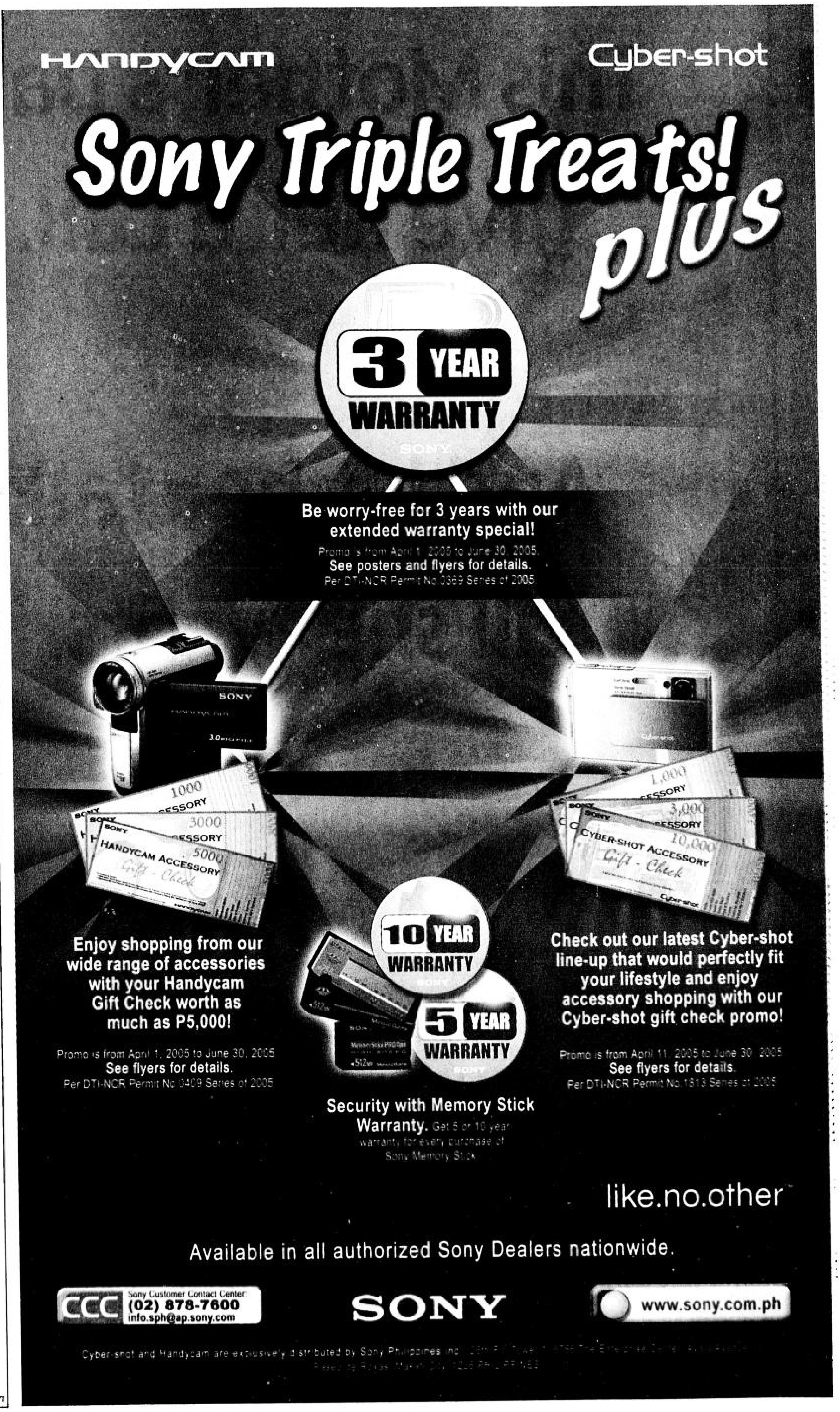
Make life more exciting as Sony Philippines comes up with great offers to suit your needs and style. For camera purchases made until June 30, valued Sony consumers nationwide can avail of the Sony Triple Treats Plus Promo. This one-of-a-kind campaign provides a 3-Year warranty for all new Handycam and Cyber-shot models, and an overwhelming 5 to 10-year Warranty for selected Sony Memory Sticks! This extended warranty appeals not just to tech-savvy consumers but to anyone who wants to avail of worry-free purchases which Sony can only provide.

Specially created for camera enthusiasts, another privilege is the Accessory Gift Check that comes along upon buying Sony Handycam or Cyber-shot models. Depending on the models purchased, one can get as high as 10,000 pesos worth of gift certificates. Shop all-you-want from camera cases, lens, filters, batteries, up to marine packs! Creating photos and videos like a professional will be easy with these specially-designed add-ons. With these on hand, you can never go wrong in any occasion or celebration. Feel proud as you share high-quality images to your friends and loved ones.

There is nothing like getting low prices for high-quality cameras. Sony lets everybody feel that owning a Handycam and a Cyber-shot is a practical choice with affordable costs. In fact, Handycam and Cyber-shot camera prices are relatively at par (some models are even lower here) with neighboring Asian countries such as Singapore and Hong Kong. Why canvass and look for cameras abroad when you can buy here reasonably priced Sony Handycam and Cyber-shot cameras bundled with extended warranty and accessory gift check?

In order to avail of these exciting offers, unit has to be purchased from any authorized Sony Philippines outlet. A friendly reminder is to always look for the official Sony Philippines warranty card. Catch up and get geared for your dream summer escapades! Splurge and enjoy capturing those moments with your own Sony Handycam and Cyber-shot.

ADVT



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pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Hello Iya, Let's Have Dinner

Isn't it weird to sit down and talk about you? (Iya: Yes!)

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno
Photos by James Gabrillo

IT WAS a Tuesday night in Manila Pen. There was a big ol' hotel cheeseburger (Pepe), a big ol' hotel mozzarella sandwich (James), a big ol' hotel bowl of pasta (Iya's *Inay*), and a scoop of ice cream and two bananas (Iya). She's thin.

Iya Villania, MYX VJ and Wowowee host and movie actress and former Game Jock, is now Modess' new spokes... girl. So we put her to the test and let her, umm, speak.

The waitress pulls a cart of cakes in front of her. She salivates. *("Alisin mo yan... Kukunin ko siya lahat...")*

Recorder on.

Iya: *(Speaks into recorder)* Ha lalala lalalalala!

Us: Hello.

Iya: *(Speaks into recorder)* Ha lalala lalalalala!

Us: Do you make an effort to speak tagalog whenever you go out?

Iya: Yes I do—um... *oo... naman! (Laughs)*

Us: But you came here not knowing tagalog?

Iya: Yeah.

Us: So you learned by like, listening to people?

Iya: Yeah, and by being forced to use the language.

Us: Do you have Filipino subjects in school?

Iya: Yes.

Us: How is it?

Iya: *Sobrang tsamba... Sobrang tsamba* if I pass. I asked if I could take, like, a special class, but my teacher said I could go if I could take the insult. *(Laughs)* 'Cause special class is for people who understand like, 10% of the language. I'm like 50%.

Us: Do people come up to you in school?

Iya: No... Well, yeah. They're like—"Iya, *pera o bayong?*"

Us: Then they hide their face and run?

Iya: *(Laughs.)* No. They're my friends.

Us: What do you say when people ask you, "Iya, what do you do?"

Iya: I say I do whatever I can do. Like, give me something and I'll try to do it.

Us: Do you miss being called a Game Jock?

Iya: Yeah. Did you use to watch?

Us: Yeah.

Iya: I love you!

Us: Say that again?

Iya: I love you!

Us: Wasn't it weird like, being in front of a camera commentating on a text game?

Iya: It was... but I am weird so it fits me. I had to read the comments people texted, and there were times people would send in mean messages, like, "Your show sucks" or something. And I'd start reading them on-air because we didn't have a filter yet. *(Laughs)* The crew would be waving their hands at the side telling me not to read it.

Us: After the Game Jock gig, you became a MYX VJ. Are you into music?

Iya: Yeah.

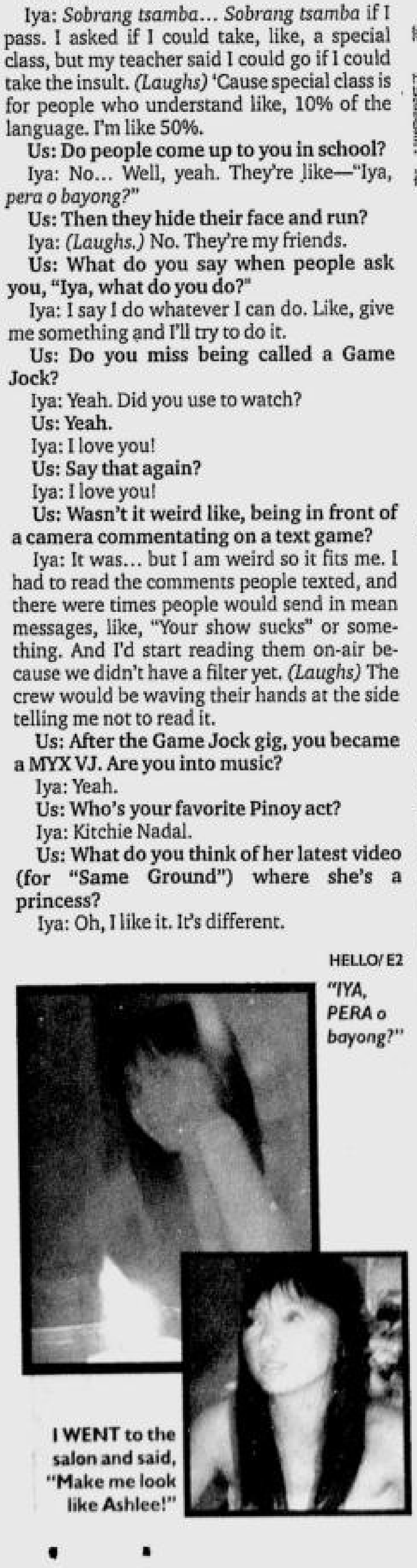
Us: Who's your favorite Pinoy act?

Iya: Kitchie Nadal.

Us: What do you think of her latest video (for "Same Ground") where she's a princess?

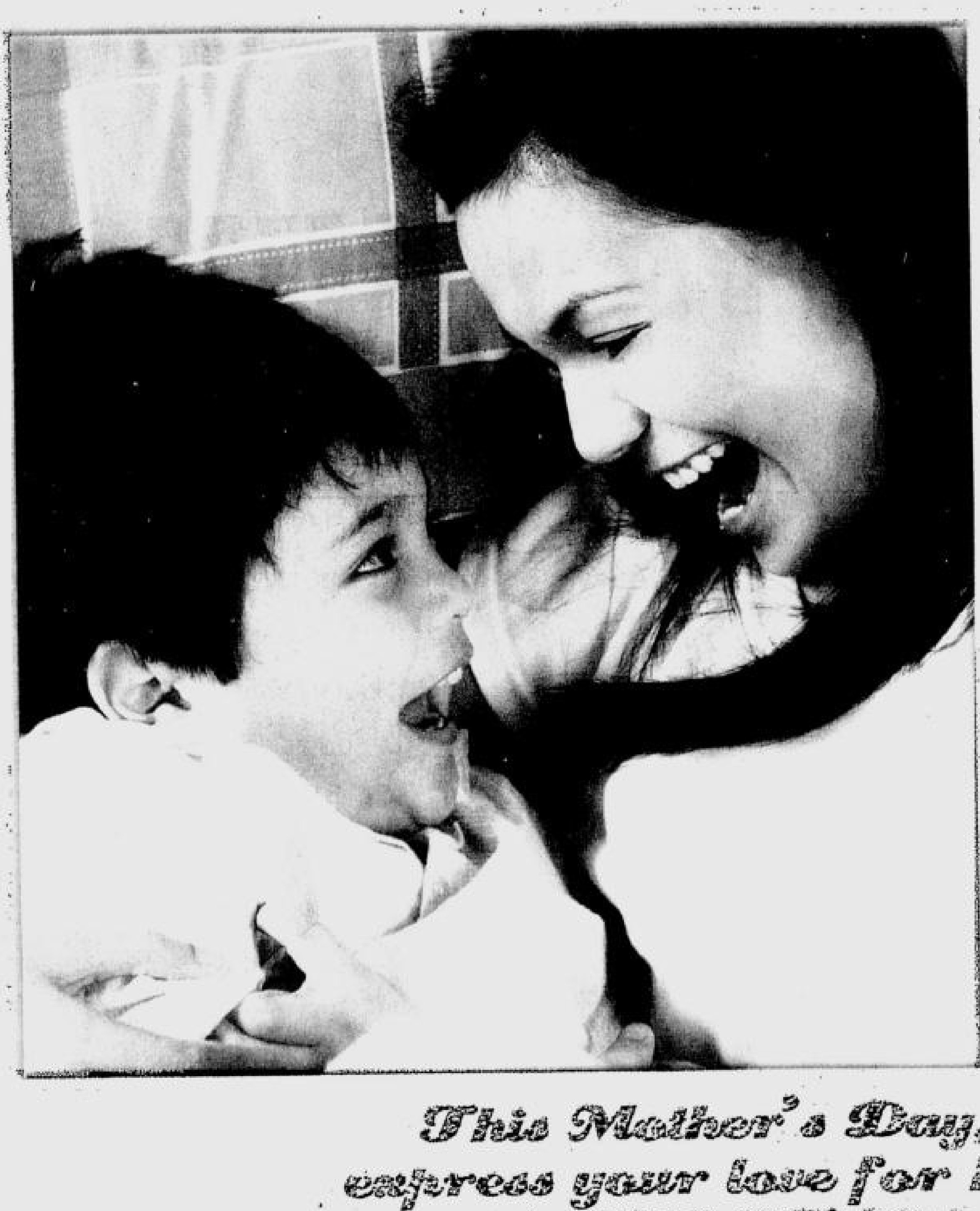
Iya: Oh, I like it. It's different.

HELLO/ E2



"IYA, PERA o bayong?"

I WENT to the salon and said, "Make me look like Ashlee!"



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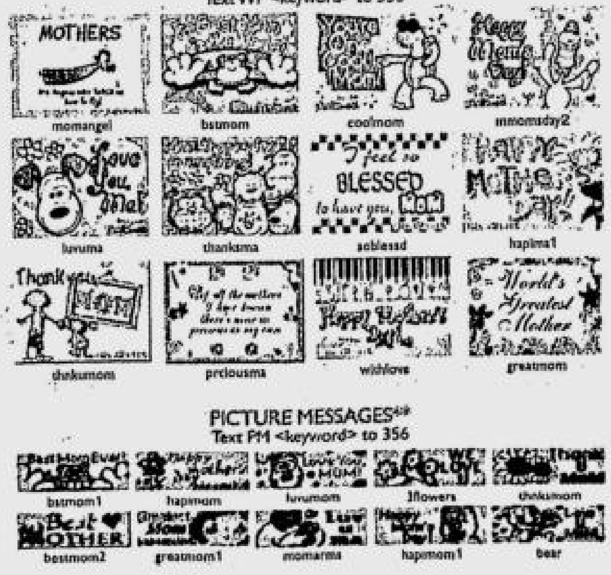
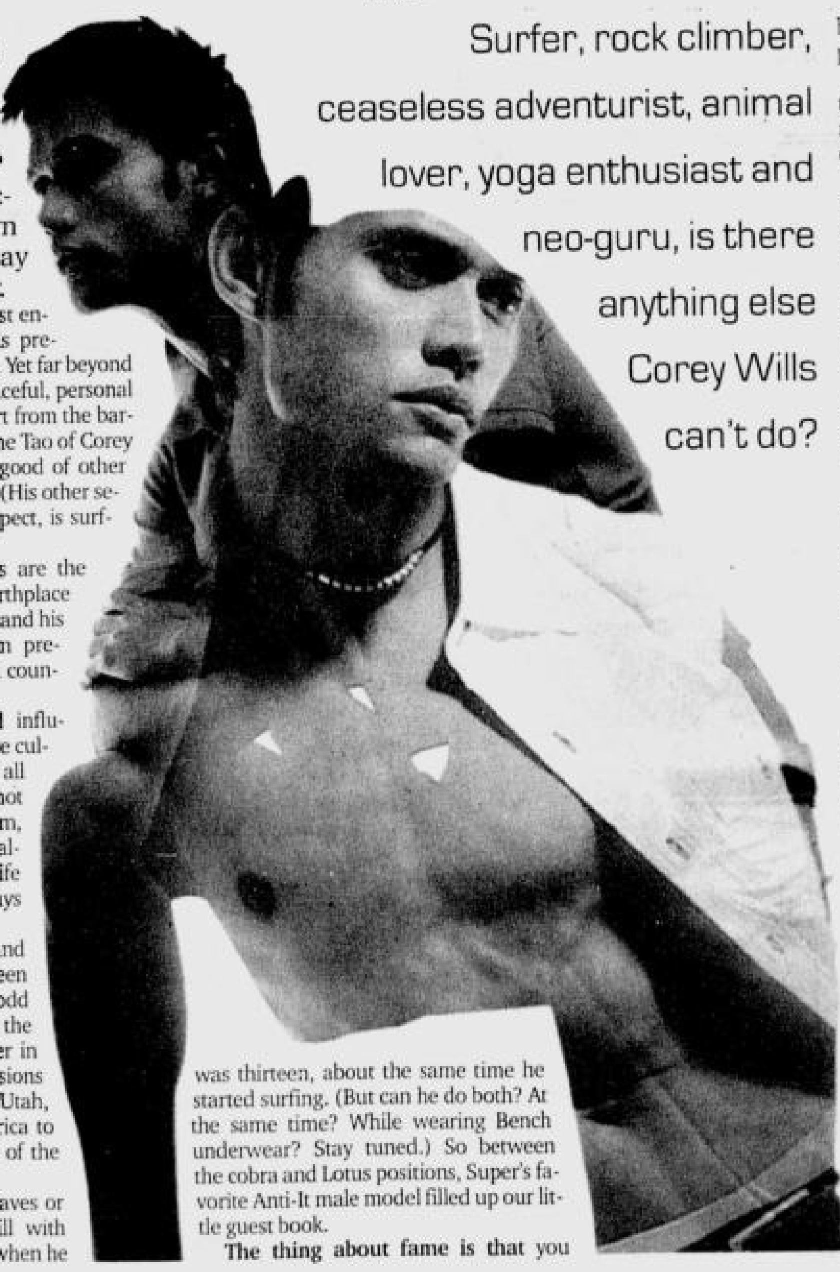


The Tao of Corey Wills

By Tals Diaz
Digital artwork by Marlone Rubio

Surfer, rock climber, ceaseless adventurist, animal lover, yoga enthusiast and neo-guru, is there anything else Corey Wills can't do?



A CRAZY, tree hugging hippie in his skivvies? Well, animal rights activists *have* been known to strip to their birthday suit rather than wear fur.

Corey Wills, Bench Body's latest endorser, believes that the body is precious so one should treat it kindly. Yet far beyond skin-deep, Corey embodies a peaceful, personal life philosophy that sets him apart from the bargain-bin Zoolanders out there. The Tao of Corey mandates that working for the good of other beings is the secret to happiness. (His other secret to happiness, we highly suspect, is surfing.)

Corey's personal philosophies are the product of his Muslim country birthplace of Brunei, his Catholic education and his constant travels and interest in predominantly Buddhist and Hindu countries.

His curious nature, spiritual influences and global adventures have culminated in a deep respect for all creatures and cultures. "I do not believe in eating animals, racism, elitism, consumerism and generally any *ism* that involves taking life or myself too seriously," says Corey.

Born to an Australian father and a Bruneian mother, Corey has been all over the map, holding such odd jobs as a construction worker in the Australian desert to a bartender in downtown Manhattan. His passions have led him to scale cliffs in Utah, chasing big waves in North Africa to practicing yoga in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Yep, when he's not riding waves or scaling cliffs, Corey keeps still with Hatha yoga, which he got into when he was thirteen, about the same time he started surfing. (But can he do both? At the same time? While wearing Bench underwear? Stay tuned.) So between the cobra and Lotus positions, Super's favorite Anti-It male model filled up our little guest book.

The thing about fame is that you have to think twice before picking your nose in public.

The thing I love most about what I do is that I get to pose and flex on the beach in ridiculously small swimsuits covered in baby oil.

People might be surprised to know that in my free time I don't actually pose and flex on the beach in ridiculously small swimsuits covered in baby oil.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that eating meat, chicken and fish kills your body and destroys the planet. That is a fact.

I wish when I started off I've been told to expect to be lied to, ripped off and betrayed and it won't be so bad when it happens.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was injuring my back.

And what this taught me was my body is precious so treat it kindly.

I believe the secret to happiness is working for the good of other beings.

My best ever outfit consisted of a pair of perfect blue surfing shorts that ripped in Siargao. I kept surfing with my butt cheek hanging out.

My Super! Saturday night consists of wall climbing at South Super Sports in Merville with Raya, Ching-Ching Andrada and Trigger Consunji followed by a cruelty-free dinner and a movie.

The soundtrack to my life would include "Bongo Bong" by Manu Chao, "People are Strange" by the Doors and "Anything" by James Brown.

If I was invisible for a day, I would pretend to be Robin Hood.

The thing that makes me most angry with myself is when I lose my cool with difficult people.

If I was the most powerful person on earth I would put a stop to the destruction of our environment, the overpopulation of the planet and torturing of its animals.

The best thing about family is that even if you turn out to be a crazy tree hugging hippie, they'll still love you.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say "That guy was a nut job."

If money was no option I would distribute it fairly.

The world would be a much better place if there were solar powered cars, a better public transport system and more trees.

My hero is John Robbins (Author of "Food Revolution").

The thing that makes my life worth living is the opportunity to realize my full potential.

My greatest hope for the future is that internal peace will be more readily available to everyone.

The worst thing somebody said about me was that I was dumb because I had A.D.D. (Attention Deficiency Disorder) when I was young.

My favorite moments are when I'm riding waves with James and Paulo; and playing with dogs.

My most embarrassing moment was when I accidentally did number 2 in my pants at the airport.

I'm saving up for my next surf trip.

My biggest indulgence is soy milk and surfboards.

My current state of mind is a little bit restless because I'm leaving the country for 5 weeks.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be Ben Stiller.

My 5 favorite words are Wicked, shag, no worries, mate.

I aspire to be as genuine and as peaceful as my girlfriend.

Hello Iya, Let's Have Dinner

From page E1

Us: How 'bout of Pinoy music videos generally? Are they crap?

Iya: No. It really depends on the artists. The concepts come from them *eh*, and they're done for a reason. So who's to say something's ridiculous?

Us: Is there a video you don't like?

Iya: *(Thinks)* Kitchie Nadal's video for "Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin"... it was just her... her forehead.

Us: But they tried to change it *naman*—they added colors.

Iya: *(Laughs.)*

Us: What do you think of *artistas* being forced to sing and make albums?

Iya: Oh, it's sad.

Us: But would you accept an offer to make your own album?

Iya: Oh, yeah!

Us: What type of music will Iya music be?

Iya: Light RnB-ish, alternative rock.

Us: Tata Young-ish?

Iya: No. Kitchie-ish.

Us: Can you sing the "Wowowee" theme for us?

Iya: Oh please.

Us: You kinda look like Ashlee Simpson.

Iya: Oh thank you. I went to the salon and said, "Make me look like Ashlee!"

Us: What do you think of the whole lip sync thing?

Iya: It's sad. I don't—well I do... I'd like to say I don't lip-sync but I do. But it's for a reason *naman*.

Us: But when you lip-sync, it's your voice on the tape?

Iya: Yup. *(Eats bananas)*

Us: What do you think of the network wars?

Iya: It's stupid.

Us: Do you watch MTV?

Iya: *(Looks at us like "Evil! Evil!")* No! But I used to watch when Donita was on.

Us: Would you be ready to give everything up like Donita?

Iya: If time is right. *(Eats)*

Us: What does your Super! Saturday night consists of?

Iya: I'm not a night person, sorry. I don't have a night life! I usually just watch a movie.

Us: What was the last movie you saw—the Hero and Sandara one?

Iya: No!

Us: What makes you Super!?

Iya: My accent. Me being wacky.

Us: This is a requirement: Come up with a tagline for Modess.

Iya: *(Thinks)* "It would have to be the wings."

Us: The thing about fame is...

Iya: If you're a public icon, everything about you is public. And it's different here in the Philippines—here, if you play a role, people expect you to be like that in real life. In Hollywood, it's just a role. Like for example, here Nina (yes, the singer) can't get married, but there Britney can, and she could still sell. Here people think like they have a say over what you do. There, it's the artists' choice.

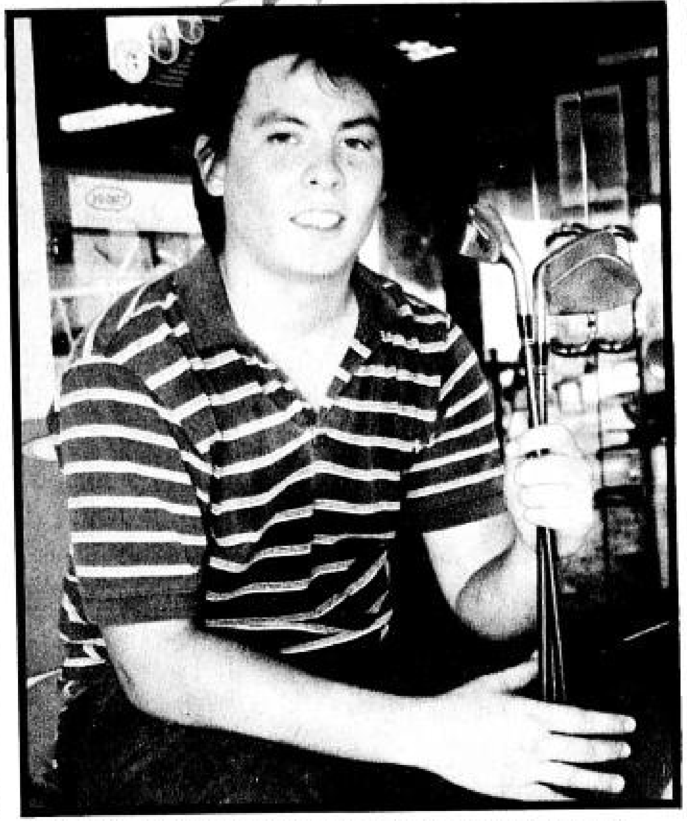
Comments at chowtime@greenarcher.net

with youthful energy

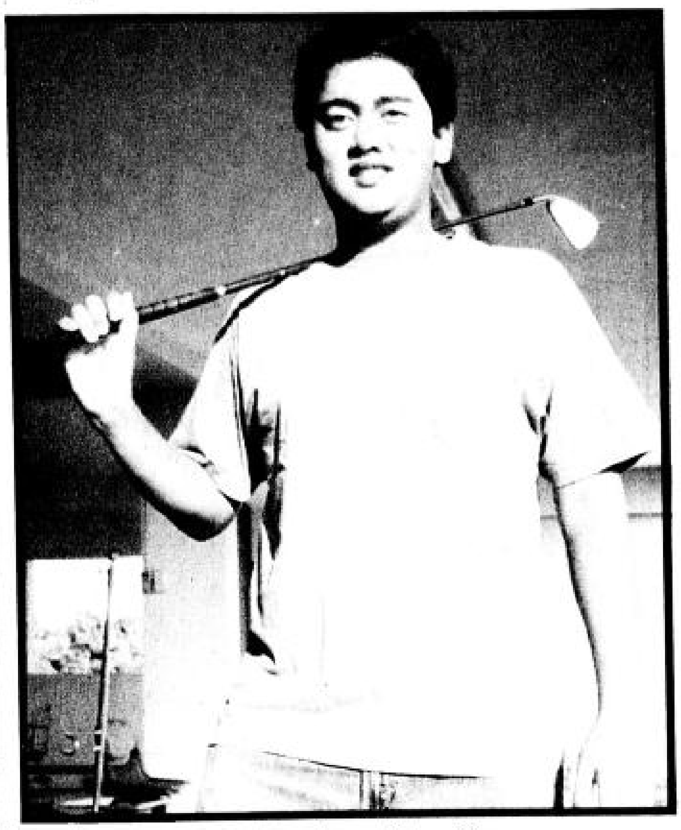
GIVE me something and I'll try to do it.

PHILIPPINE Super INQUIRER

EXTREME GAMES. Luis Villafuerte established his own wakeboarding center.



HE'S NOT CHICKEN. Semil Tuason reinvents the Peking Duck.



PUTTING AWAY. Venjo Reyes gives a gift to golfers.

The drive to school never felt this good

By Jojo Nones
Photos by Raul Roa

THESE are the stars of The Centre for International Education—the only International Associate Partner of the University of Cambridge in the Philippines.

Find out how they're rocking the business world and take the cue from them.

CERTIFIED PARTY ANIMALS. Theresa Cho and Ryan Hao can throw a mean blowout for your pets.

Ryan Hao, 17

Theresa Cho, 23

Party Animals Inc.

These business partners really like pets, so they decided to make pets their business. At a party of one of his friend's pet dogs, Ryan got the idea of putting up a party planner studio for pets. When Theresa learned about it, she couldn't stop talking about her own ideas for the business. Ryan thought they were very sound, so they formed a partnership. In the future, they're hoping to have related businesses like pet cuisine, pet spa, pet clothing, and their dream project—a pet cemetery.

Jesse Suaco, 21

Spin City DJ Education

DJ schools are hits abroad but Spin City is the first of its kind in the country. Jesse, however, believes his DJ school will prove to be successful. And if it's any indication, world number 5 Dutch DJ Ferry Corsten and good friend Embassy ambassador and R&B DJ Jon Herrera were present to spin alongside the young entrepreneur when Jesse launched his DJ school. Jesse was only 19 when he bested 3,600 other entries for the chance to represent the Philippines and Asia at the Ministry of Sound DJ Finals in Acapulco, Mexico.

Venjo Reyes, 21

Golf-stretching Pole Distribution

Venjo started playing golf when he was eight years old, and since then he has constantly fallen more in love with the sport. He dreams of joining the Asian tour, and with a paltry handicap of two, his dream is not far from being fulfilled. By distributing the locally unavailable golf-stretching pole that aids players in having the proper warm-up before every game, he supports not just his passion, but also helps multitudes of golf-lovers in the country.

Luis Villafuerte III, 21

Wakeboarding Center

Of the influential Bicol Villafuerte clan is Luis III, another golf-enthusiast who dreams of one day being a pro. He loves it at CIE, "so different from my former school. I plan to stay here until graduation." He's into extreme sports as well, and he'd like other people of the same passion to have a venue for extreme games. He thinks his wakeboarding center will be a hit with everyone who's into extreme gaming.

Christian Miranda, 20

Embassy of Foreign Universities

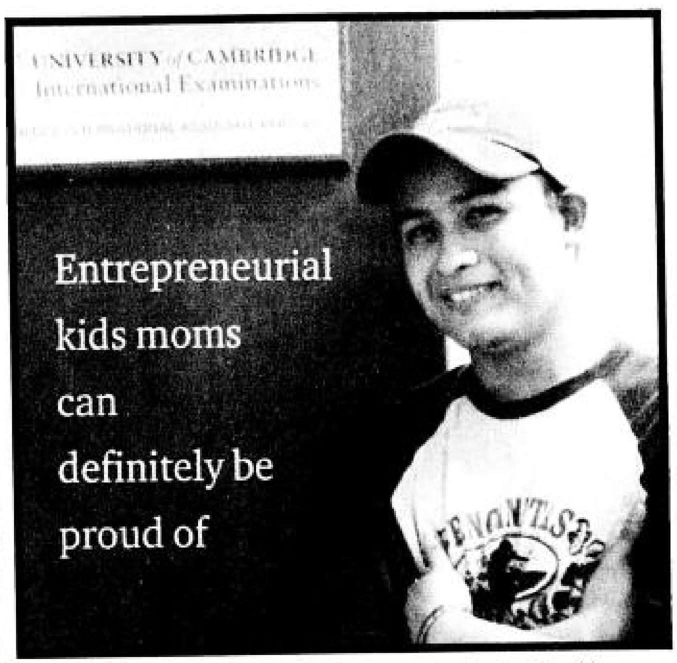
Capitalizing on his vast network of friends enrolled in the best American, European, and Australian universities, Christian has devised a unique plan for local students who want to study abroad. By hooking up with Christian's service center, you can hook up with other students, Filipino or otherwise, currently enrolled in the university of your choice. His business offers counseling, exposure, seminars, workshops, help with passports and visa applications, orientation regarding the country, and continuing assistance by "Embassy mentors". Among the mentors in Christian's panel—to be presented in a press launch soon—are students and graduates of Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, and the University of Melbourne, just to name a few.

Semil Tuason, 22

'Pekeng' Duck

Semil and his family enjoy eating the Peking Duck in Chinese restaurants, but they are usually too expensive to be enjoyed regularly. Enter "Pekeng Duck", Semil's own version of the exotic duck fare, only this time, it's made of chicken.

Aside from this novel business concept, Semil is also attracted to the prospect of tropical landscaping.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Entrepreneurial kids moms can definitely be proud of

YOUNG AMBASSADOR. Christian Miranda capitalized on his network.

Christine Chuachoy, 20

'The Ukay-Ukay Way'

Christine feels that fashionistas know about *"ukay"* (second-hand clothing), but then it stops there. "They have so many misconceptions about it." So, she decided to write a book, "The Ukay-Ukay Way", to help people find great stuff, special and unique, with just a small budget. The book is the first definitive guide in the country, complete with detailing maps, bargaining tips, proprietor's cell phone numbers, and an astonishing plethora of useful information.

CIE is located on the 28th floor of the Yuchengco Tower of the RCBC Plaza in Makati. Call 887-2828 or visit www.ciemakati.edu.ph.

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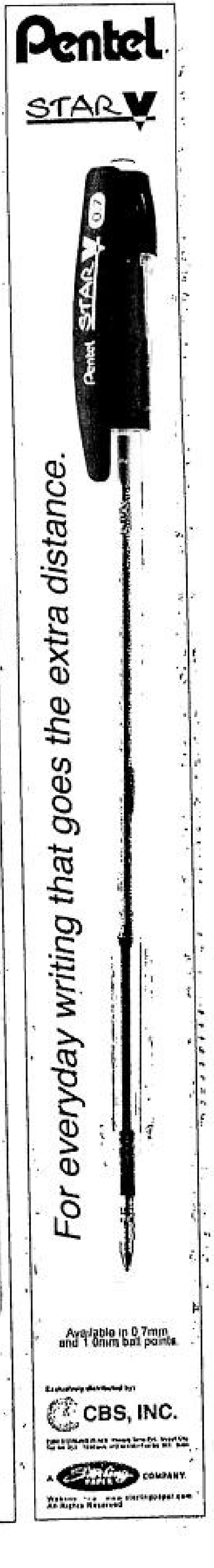

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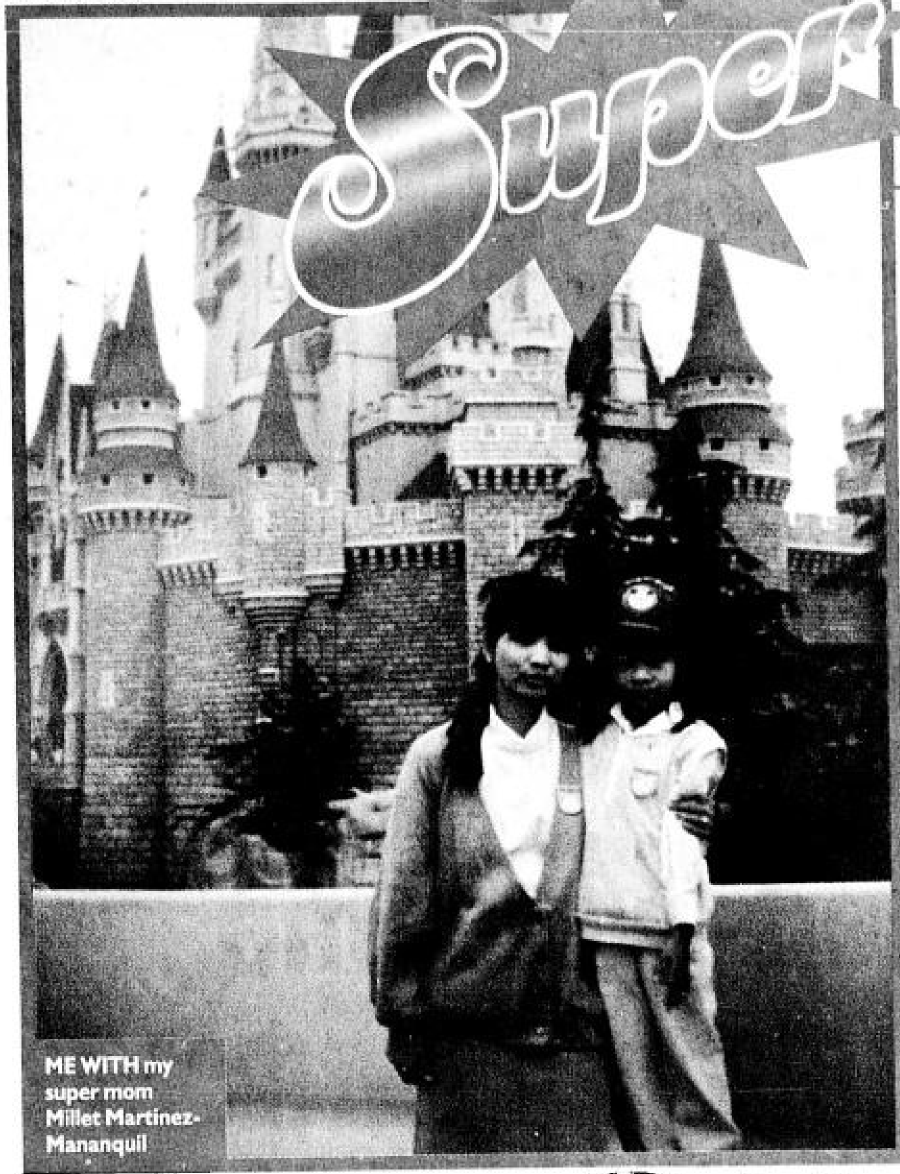
My mom is so uncool



ME WITH my super mom Millet Martinez-Mananquil

Beyond the runway

Raya Mananquil

WHEN I was a kid, she would pinch my cheeks and tell everyone how cute I was. It was so embarrassing because she was showing everybody how much she cared about me.

When I would try to cross the streets on my own, she would run after me and grab my hand because she thought that I might get run over by a car.

When I was in grade school, she would wake up every morning before school to make sure I had a boring hearty and healthy breakfast instead of eating yummy junk food and candy.

When I was sick, she didn't want me to go out and play with my neighbors. Instead, she stayed by my side and read me books until I got better.

MY MOM/ F3

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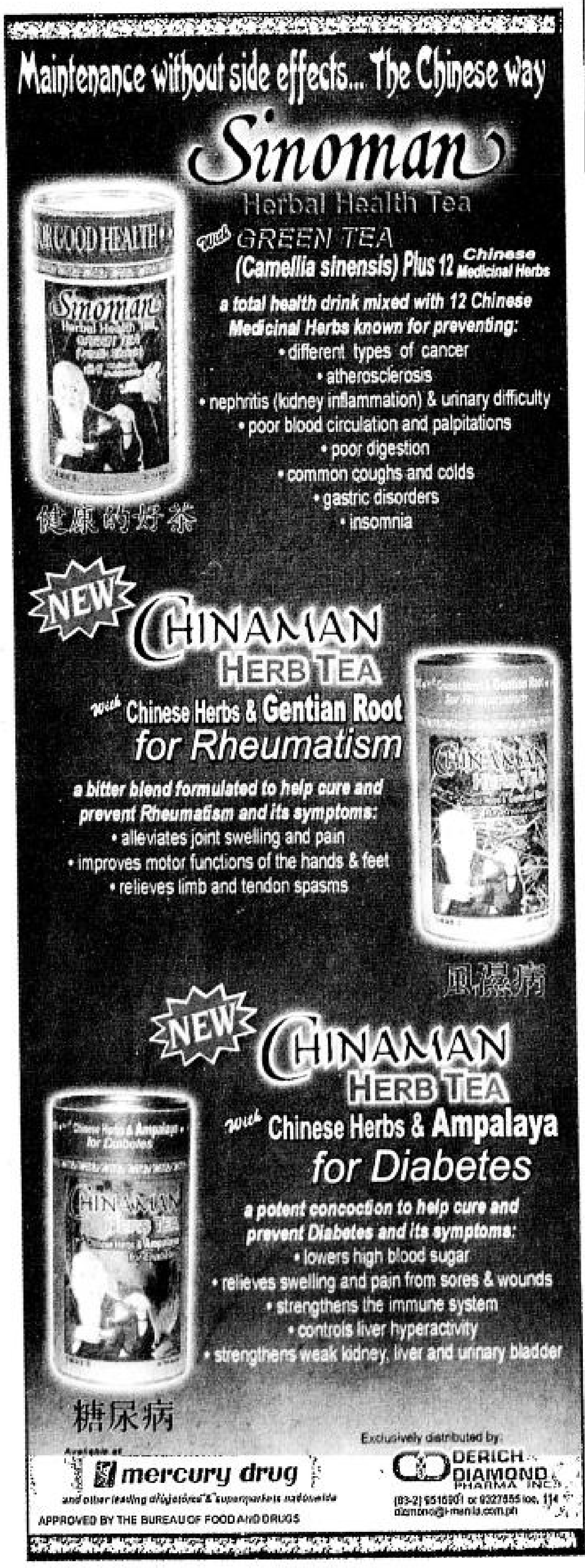

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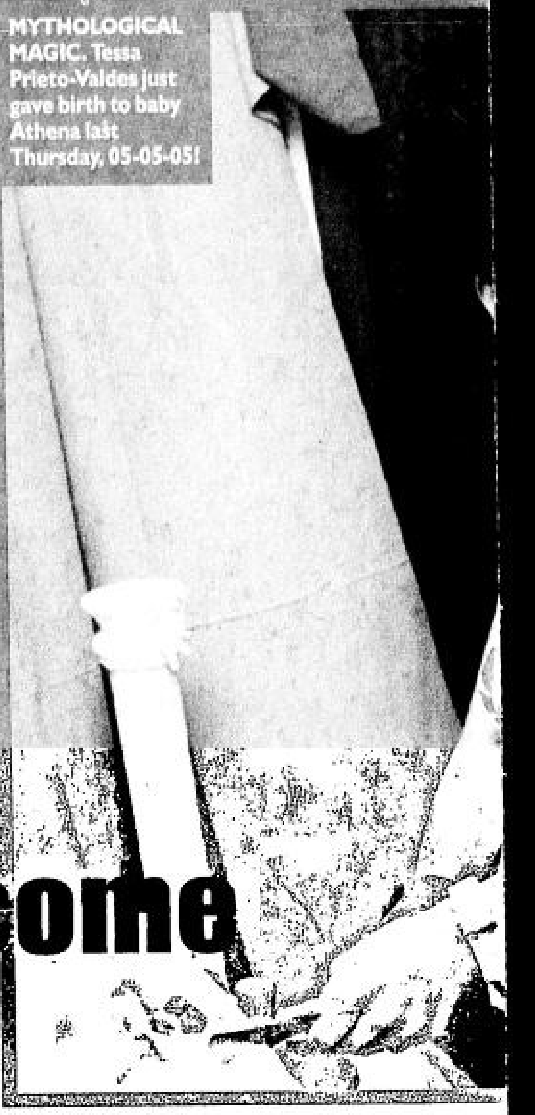
PENK CHING'S CRADLE. Candy coated cake to welcome baby Athena

MUSE AMUSE. Tessa and Rajo are inseparable

GREEK GATE. Virgie Ramos and Yaparazzi go the Caesar's Palace route


MYTHOLOGICAL MAGIC. Tessa Prieto-Valdes just gave birth to baby Athena last Thursday, 05-05-05!

Tessa just popped—welcome Athena

By Tim Yap
Photos by Terry Uy
SPECIAL THANKS TO CARLO TADIAR AND METRO SOCIETY

CIRKULO CENTERFOLDS. Rosanne Cruz, Malu Gamboa and Leah Puyat

FIRM-A. Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre with [illegible] Agnes [illegible] Chan [illegible]

BREAKING news! Baby Athena Marean Prieto-Valdes, Dennis and Tessa Prieto-Valdes' latest incarnation just said her first hello to this world last Thursday—a fateful 05-05-05 combination—as explosive as her mother's presence. All the more reason to celebrate.

Athena weighed six pounds and eight ounces, to which dad Dennis exclaimed, "Wow, I'm getting old for this!"

Outside all the fluff, frou frou and frivolity, Tessa is one woman who embraces motherhood to the hilt. And who wouldn't want to have like a mom like her and live like Alice (this time it's Athena) in Wonderland?

Tessa is one person who never tires of throwing unforgettable parties for people she genuinely loves.

So a couple of weeks back, when it was about time her friends throw a surprise baby shower for her, we knew it was going to be tricky. We needed to keep it a secret for at least two weeks (that's hard for anyone in Manila) and we needed to proceed with caution, lest Tessa smells something and throws a surprise party for us instead.

Her Urban Spa partner Irene Ibañez took care of the venue, plus setting up Tessa, telling her that it was for a Metro Society shoot, so she had to be fully made up at Eric Maningat's salon at the Shangri-la Plaza mall. (Because we didn't think she would appreciate it if she didn't look fab once we surprise her.) El Cirkulo's Malu Gamboa prepared a spread of Tessa's favorite dishes (plus tita Mary Rufino's siomai) while Penk Ching prepared a fondant creation of a Grecian inspired cake that would put the Parthenon to shame.

MORE THAN GREEK ROYALTY. Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, my favorite tita Mary Rufino and everyone's Sea Princess

The theme was Greek because, as if you didn't know, this baby number three was made in Greece, during the Olympics where Tessa went with hubby Dennis as part of the Swatch delegation.

Urban Spa surprise

Rajo Laurel prepared Greek togas for everyone that for a minute it felt like graduation day while Anton Barretto spruced up the spa area with all things Greek and good. Leah Puyat did the Tessa route by wearing a flaming red Grecian gown with matching authentic gold jewelry—we labeled her our class valedictorian. With Filipino time a given, Irene had to do a lot of delaying tactics just to get all the guests together—from shopping for furniture to having Eric take longer than usual in putting together Tessa's hair and makeup. "I ended up buying things that I didn't need just to delay Tessa," said the Urban Spa seductress.

After what seemed like 48 years of trying to be quiet (even harder for anyone in Manila) so as not to give Tessa any clue that we were inside Urban Spa—she arrived. "Surprise! Opa! Athena!" We screamed at the top of our lungs as Tessa stood there, the shock on her face overpowering the frills of her pink gown.

Tears started falling off her cheeks as we all took turns in hugging our beloved Sea Princess—she didn't mind if it ruined her mascara. And yup, Metro Society indeed had a photographer to document the surprise.

CHIC O CHIC. [illegible] Carpo, Kitty Ponto, Lala Carpo, Mary Rufino and Malu Gamboa

"I am so overwhelmed with all your preparations! And Tim, you're not late! Thanks so so much to all of you," as she hugged everyone back.

A week later, Anton San Diego, her "Look Who's Talking" co-host joined hands with chic and controversial couple Ricco and Tina Ocampo to throw yet another shower at the Ocampo's Forbes Park residence.

As I write this piece, bouncing baby Athena has just graced our fantastic world, ready for her close up.

Welcome to the party, baby Athena.

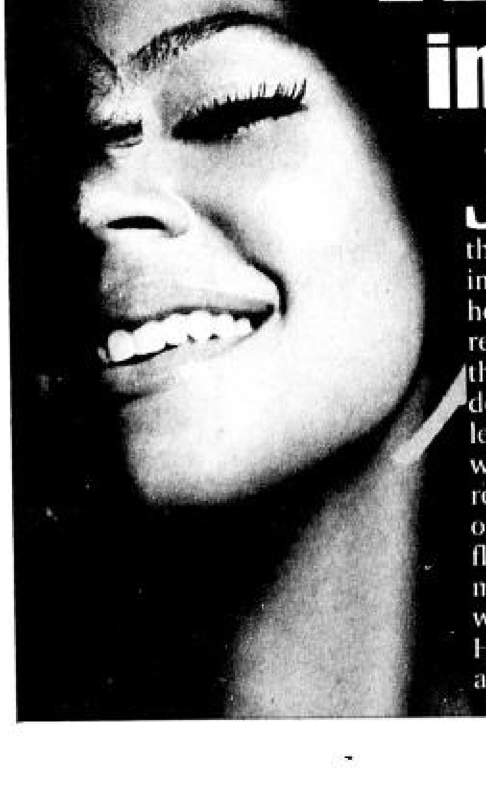
MILK IT. Malu Gamboa [illegible] Rajo Laurel [illegible] his milk

VANITY FARE. Bright young thing with buddy Thea Jacinto

URBAN SPA seductresses: The Sea Princess and Irene Ibañez

A-LIST decor genius Anton Barretto

Ashanti in Super! Manila



J. LO. Ja Rule. Big Pun. Fat Joe. She's worked with some of the industry's best, writing lyrics and singing hooks that help their records reach the top of the music charts. On her debut album, Ashanti's lead single, Foolish, made waves on the radio and received heavy rotation on urban stations. She flips hardcore songs and makes them sweet. That's why Murder Inc.'s Hip-Hop R&B princess Ashanti appeals to a wide market.

Ashanti's already well-established track record has placed her on the sweet road to success.

With her own albums, Ashanti continues the saga that has earned her the throne as R&B princess.

And the impact she hopes to make during her reign is simple: "If you're a person who has trouble expressing yourself, all you have to do is pop in this album and it'll speak for you," she says with sincerity.

For her Manila concert, Ashanti will perform hits from her two albums and is sure to deliver an unforgettable evening.

Watch Ashanti: Live in Manila on May 26, 2005, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. For inquiries, call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

MOUNT URBAN SPA-LYMPUS. The surprise shower party suspects pose for a Grecian group pic.

My mom is so uncool

From page F1

When I asked her to buy me more toys, she refused and told me to save my allowance. It sucked having to learn the importance of saving because she didn't want to spoil me.

When I was 9 years old and Vanilla Ice came to Manila for a concert, she insisted on coming with us because she didn't want my brother, sister and I to get hurt in the rowdy, screaming crowd. We were the only kids with a parent accompanying us.

When I entered adolescence, she wouldn't let me hang out with the popular kids who were drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes and going home past midnight. My friends had parents who let them do anything they wanted, while my mom taught me the importance of discipline.

When I started dating boys, she warned me about them breaking my heart. She even interviewed them to make sure they were nice, smart and decent boys. Why wouldn't she let me go out with the rebellious and mean ones?

Mom, you're so uncool!

When I grow up, I want to be a totally uncool mother just like you.

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Jaunt through history, art and nature in sugar capital. Visit the century old San Sebastian Cathedral constructed of coral and feast your eyes with The Hofilena Art collection, which holds classic works of art made such masters as Juan Luna, and even international greats such as Picasso and Gova.

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Superfriends

Text and Photos by David Milan

Want to be on Superfriends? Send your photos and contact numbers to david_milan@lycos.com

Tippy Enriquez

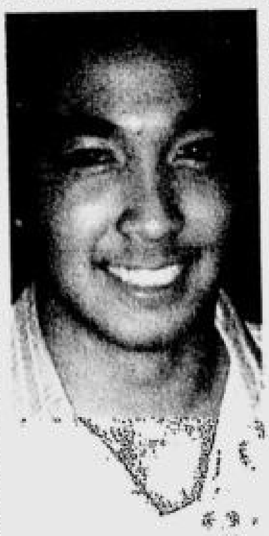
The thing I love most about my momma is: That she's very very supportive in everything that I do.
My momma is a cool mom because: She can be my mother and best friend at the same time.
My song for her is: Wind beneath my wings.
If my momma is reading this I'd like to tell her: That I love her so much and I appreciate all the things she has done. Thanks mom!
Email: tippy_enriquez@yahoo.com

Joseph Sawit

I'm a son of a: Man who would have been a better homemaker than Martha Stewart.
The thing I love most about my momma is: She has the uncanny ability to sense when I'm getting hungry.
My momma is a cool mom because: She's the best cook ever. My friends would go to our house just to taste her food!
If my momma is reading this i'd like to tell her: That she is my QUEEN.
Email: cnl_285@yahoo.com

Kriselle Yatco

The thing I love most about my momma is: She's very supportive with what I want for my future.
My momma is a cool mom because: She's up to date with trends!
My song for her is: MAMA by Boyz II Men.
If my momma is reading this I'd like to tell her: That I will always love her no matter what happens!
Email: kmyatco@yahoo.com

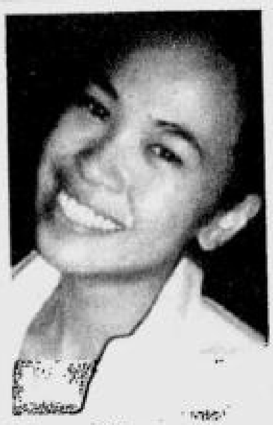


Jansel Rodrigo

I'm a son of a: Loving mum!
The thing I love most about my momma is: Everything about her. She's not only my mom, she's also my friend.
My momma is a cool mom because: She dresses like my girlfriend! Very stylish and gets along with my friends.
My song for her is: Time and tide by Basia.
If my momma is reading this I'd like to tell her: No one can replace her.
Email: jansel_rodrigo@yahoo.com

Angel Masenon

The thing I love most about my momma is: She's the first person to know but the last to admit.
My momma is a cool mom because: She goes with flow, and she glows, but doesn't go slow.
My song for her is: Hold You Down.
If my momma is reading this I'd like to tell her: That she's the best Motha in the world!!!
Email: angel_masenon@yahoo.com

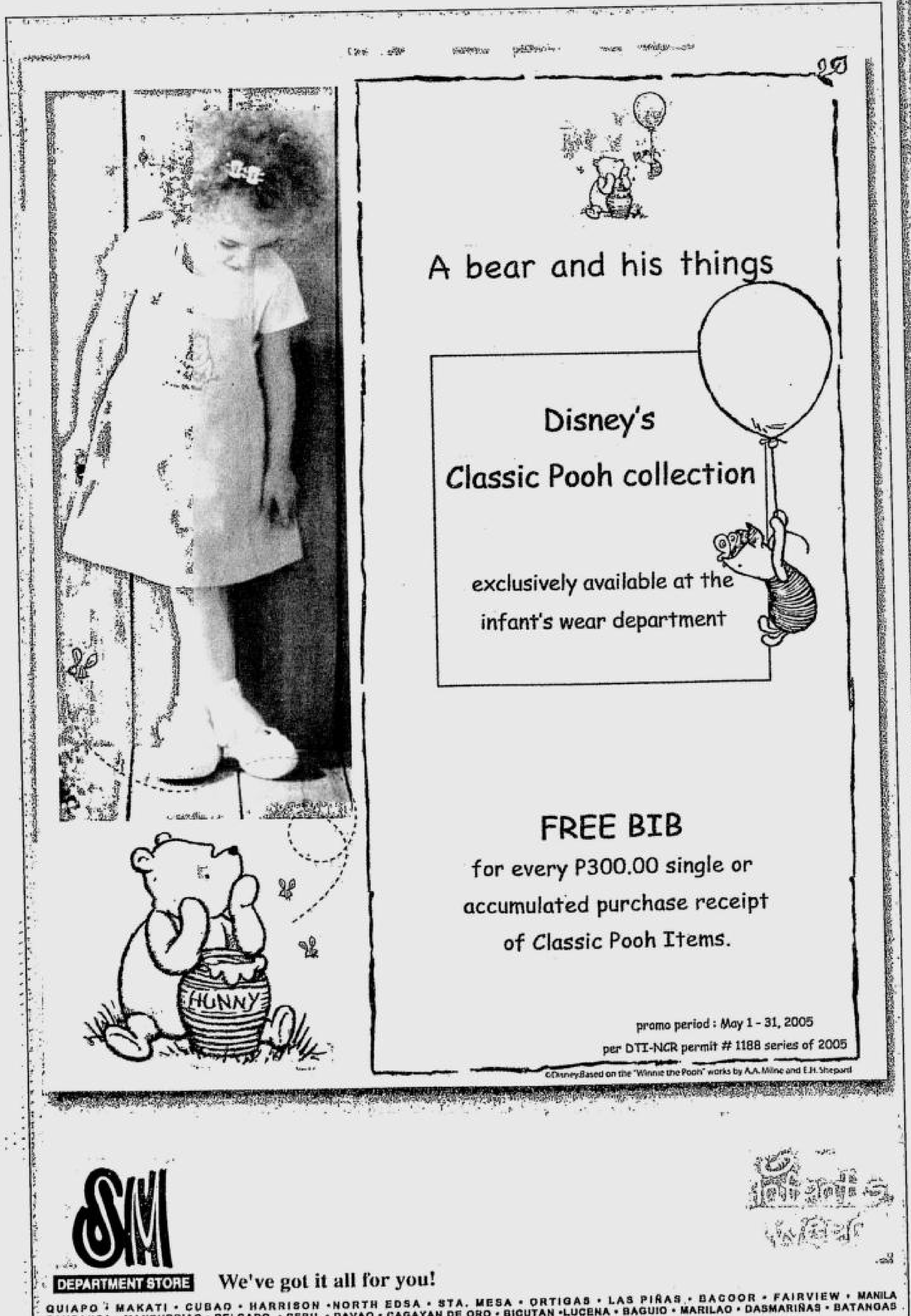


Kara Chua

The thing I love most about my momma is: Her invincible but yet serene personality that she leaves everyone in awe.
My momma is a cool mom because: She simply hears me out!
My song for her is: Oh Carol!
If my momma is reading this I'd like to tell her: I love her so much! Her presence in this world just exemplifies what a momma should be.
Email: Karachua@yahoo.com

Kimi Lu

The thing I love most about my momma is: We're TOTALLY ALIKE.
My momma is a cool mom because: She still have crushes on my cute guy friends.
My song for her is: Count on me. Sob.
If my momma is reading this I'd like to tell her: I love her more than she knows! Muahh!
Email: kimi_lu@yahoo.com



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